

# gay community news

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THE GAY WEEKLY 50¢



**GCN's 5th ANNIVERSARY**  
**JUSTICE BONIN CENSURED**



## Misconduct for Rights Lecture Attendance

# Mass. Chief Justice Bonin Formally Censured

By David Brill

BOSTON — The Mass. Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) last Saturday formally censured Superior Court Chief Justice Robert M. Bonin and ordered his continued suspension pending removal proceedings in the Legislature. The SJC decision followed a two-week trial at which Bonin was charged with misconduct in office, charges based largely on his attendance at a \$5-per-person fundraiser for the Boston/Boise Committee, a local gay rights organization.

The lengthy decision makes it clear that the SJC considers the Boston/Boise Committee to be a defense committee for the 24 men indicted in the so-called "Revere sex-ring" cases, although the organization's leaders insist they are not a defense committee.

### Unanimous Decision

"The Chief Justice's conduct was improper and created the appearance of impropriety, bias, and special influence," said the Court, in a 44-page, unanimous decision.

Six of the nine charges against Bonin involved his attendance at the gay rights lecture. However, the SJC acquitted the judge of the most serious charges against him — that he lied



Justice Robert Bonin and Angela Bonin at the disputed benefit

under oath when he said he did not know that the lecture's proceeds would benefit Superior Court defendants, and that he attempted to force his administrative aide to perjure himself. Those two charges, which SJC prosecutor Robert Meserve had previously called "the crux of the matter" against Bonin, involved questions of Bonin's and the aide's (Francis X. Orfanello) credibility. The SJC found "reasonable doubt" when comparing Bonin's word against Orfanello's.

The Court said it had not been proven that Bonin knew in advance

that the Revere cases would be discussed at the lecture, but said that he had "been put on sufficient inquiry" to find out. The Court described the judge as "negligent almost to the point of willfulness in ignoring or brusquely dismissing information brought to his attention as to the character of the meeting."

The Court said that Bonin "learned enough during the meeting to realize that his attendance might well be viewed as improper."

### Defeat for CLUM

These last two charges represented a

defeat for the Civil Liberties Union of Mass., which had filed a lengthy *amicus curiae* on Bonin's behalf with the SJC. The CLUM brief argued, "... Judges have a right, if not a responsibility, to inform themselves about events and issues of concern to the people in the communities which they serve. A trial judge should not be prevented from attending such an event because a case pending within his jurisdiction may be discussed, unless he is the presiding judge in that case."

The SJC responded, "We agree that it is well for a judge's intellectual interest to extend to a comprehension of the attitudes and beliefs of minority groups, not excepting minorities which are defined by their sexual views or preferences or behavior. In ordinary circumstances, the Chief Justice or any judge would be entirely free to attend a public lecture about sex and politics whether or not it is sponsored by a 'gay' group. Nor is a judge under any duty in ordinary situations to inquire minutely into the sponsorship of public meetings before undertaking to attend them. Excessive caution, self-consciousness, or self-abnegation of this kind is neither required nor desirable."

"The special factor of difficulty in the present case — the stone of

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## Cites 'Aberrant' Sexual Behavior

# Federal Prison Refuses to Admit Newspaper

By Jim Marko

BOSTON — A small Boston-based newspaper, *Bar None*, has been banned from a Federal Correctional Institution in Memphis, Tennessee. The newspaper is produced by a group of individuals for prison inmates in Massachusetts and around the country.

*Bar None* was mailed to Frank Hall, an inmate at the FCI in Memphis, in May of this year. On June 7, the paper was returned to the sender with a U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Prisons form explaining why it was returned.

### Official Justice Dept. Act

The form, signed by Hal R. Hopkins, warden of the Memphis facility, stated that the publication, "because of its contents, would not be in the best interest of the security, good

order, or discipline of this institution. Consequently, your publication is being returned and will not be allowed ... We request you to discontinue further mailing of the publication to the institution."

The form letter also stated, "In our judgment, the contents could promote aberrant sexual behavior."

Ron Burkhardt, an assistant to Warden Hopkins, told GCN that the newspaper was returned as "per Bureau of Prisons policy."

Burkhardt, who could not define "aberrant sexual behavior," except to note that "we follow prison policy," had no further comment on the case. "I don't have the information available," he said. Burkhardt added that he could not secure a copy of the U.S. Dept. of Justice rejection, which

was signed by the warden, because "I don't keep that on file."

*Bar None* has the right to appeal the decision by the warden at the Memphis facility. The appeal would come in an "independent review" before the Regional Director of the South East Regional Office of the Bureau of Prisons in Atlanta, Georgia.

### The 'Offending' Material

GCN obtained a copy of the *Bar None* refused by the Memphis warden and found only one reference to homosexuality. Homosexuality is the "aberrant sexual behavior" referred to by the Bureau of Prisons.

In a free-form poem from inmate Anthony Jamison of Illinois, there is a call for gay power. Entitled "It's Time, Warden," the poem ends, "Well, baby, it's time you recognized us a part

of your Correctional Center./ Yes, we're a very highly respectful part of your domain./ It's time, baby!/ For centuries you've been hearing the cry, "White Power."/ For years you've been hearing the cry, "Black Power."/ Well now it's time you began hearing a very dignified, / respectable, proud cry from the most beautiful people within your domain./ "Gay Power," honey!"

### Lambda Court Suit

The decision by the Memphis FCI to refuse Frank Hall's copy of *Bar None* is similar to actions taken by federal facilities in the past. Those actions have led to a court suit against the prison system policies which prohibit "gay" publications in the federal penitentiaries.

Aided by the American Civil

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## Thousands March in Capitol for Extension of ERA Deadline

Thomas, the actresses; and Karen DeCrow, former president of NOW.

So far 35 states have passed the bill, but three more must ratify it before the March 22, 1979 deadline to make it a part of the Constitution.

Costanza delivered a statement from President Carter on his Administration's support for the extension of the ratification deadline. The President called the proposed amendment the "bedrock" for strengthening and broadening opportunities for women and minorities. When Betty Friedan reached the steps of the Mall she said, "I don't see how anybody could say there wasn't support for ERA with this crowd

showing up in this weather."

The march was different from the 1913 demonstration staged by the late Alice Paul and 8,000 of her white-clad followers to bolster sagging Congressional support for the Constitutional amendment that seven years later gave women the right to vote. During that march city police turned their backs, and men spat upon the women, slapped them and burned them with cigar butts until the march was broken up at the National Archives Building. As the marchers passed that spot this year, they struck a large bell for a note of mournful remembrance.

The future of the ERA depends on whether the March 22, 1979 deadline

set by Congress for ratification by the states can be extended and whether the states that have already voted in favor of the amendment can constitutionally vote to revoke ratification.

The supporters of the bill urge a seven year extension of the deadline, and the question is currently being debated in the House Judiciary Committee.

Three states that once ratified the bill have since voted to rescind the amendment. They are Idaho, Nebraska and Tennessee. In Kentucky, the legislature voted to revoke ratification, but that action was vetoed by the acting governor.

# NEWS NOTES

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I have a definite feeling that homosexuals as a class are doomed to die out because they don't reproduce their own kind." — Vermont State Senator Melvin Mandingo (R-Essex-Orleans) quoted in the Sunday *Rutland Herald*, June 25, 1978.

## CLGR CONDEMNS NYC ATTACK

NEW YORK CITY — As police continue their investigation of the assaults on six men in the Central Park Rambles on July 5, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights has issued a statement condemning anti-gay violence.

Spokespersons David Thorstad and Betty Santoro expressed the outrage of the city's lesbian and gay community at the assault, as well as profound sympathy for the victims. "Although the sexual orientation of the victims is irrelevant," they said, "the nature of the attack is clear. It is a horrifying example of an escalating wave of violence directed at the gay community in New York City and throughout America."

The Rambles in Central Park has been a popular cruising area for gay men. Police, although stating that the attacks did not seem directed against gays, are investigating all angles of the incident.

The Coalition has called on the police to "fulfill their obligation to apprehend and prosecute to the limit of the law the perpetrators of this violence."

## POEM BACK IN SCHOOL

BOSTON — A U.S. District Court Judge has ruled that the Chelsea School Committee violated the constitutional rights of both pupils and faculty members by removing a poem from the high school library last year.

Judge Joseph L. Tauro ruled that the poem "The City to a Young Girl" be made available to Chelsea High School students without restriction.

The poem, written by a 15-year-old New York City woman, expressed in street language how the writer felt about men who stared at her or called out at her in the streets. Former Chelsea School Committee Chair Andrew P. Quigley described the poem as "filth."

In his order, Judge Tauro said that the words "may shock but they communicate." "What is at stake here," the judge said, "is the right to read and be exposed to controversial thoughts and language — a valuable right protected by the First Amendment."

## UNITED WAY GIVES GAY

SAN FRANCISCO — The United Way of the Bay Area has agreed to fund a gay-oriented service group by allotting \$30,000 from this year's crusade to the Pacific Center of Berkeley. The grant ends a long-standing feud between the gay community and the giant fund-raising organization.

The Pacific Center for Human Growth is the first gay-oriented social service agency to receive funds from the United Way and its predecessor organization, the United Bay Area Crusade. The organization applied for funding from the United Way in 1973 but was refused, as it has been every year since then.

For more than a decade gay leaders have attacked United Way for its refusal to fund any gay group. In the late 1960s gay leaders here unsuccessfully tried to encourage gay persons to protest United Way's discriminatory policy by refusing to allow their employees to deduct donations from their paychecks to United Way.

## HOME SEX TEACHING NOT BEST

MINNEAPOLIS — A report following an eight year project by an agency of the American Lutheran Church said that the family is not necessarily the best teacher about sex.

"We can no longer assume that the family is necessarily equipped to share information about sexuality and facilitate development of sexually healthful human beings," the report said.

The report added that the project "brings the important issue of human sexuality to a place of stature and prominence on the agenda of the American Lutheran Church."

## VOLUNTEER FOR GAY LEGISLATION

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Caucus for Gay Legislation is organizing teams of volunteers to telephone canvas Boston residents in hopes of identifying those supportive of gay rights candidates.

The effort will begin Aug. 2 and run through Sept. 19, the day of the primary. Each volunteer would give approximately 20 hours of time, spread over that seven week period.

Anyone willing to help in this effort or who want further information should contact Bob Stevens at 445-6144.

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY WALK

BOSTON — In an effort to raise money for ERA extension and ratification, the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women is holding a 10-mile walk on Women's Equality Day, August 26. That date is the anniversary of the passage of the Suffrage Amendment.

Throughout the nation there will be walkathons to raise money for the National NOW/ERA Fund. For further information on this year's walk in Boston call 661-6015.

## MORE WORKING WOMEN

WASHINGTON, DC — According to a government study, 56% of working-age women held temporary or permanent jobs in 1977.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 46.4 million women aged 16 or older were employed at some time during the year. Those figures are consistent with previous reports showing more women working because of greater interest in careers and to supplement family incomes.

The proportion of working-age men who held jobs during 1977 was 81%, about the same, said the bureau, as the previous year.

## NAZIS RALLY IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO — Some 25 members of the National Socialist Party of America held their long-sought rally in the racially tense Southwest Side neighborhood of this city on Sunday, July 9.

Riot-helmeted police made at least 72 arrests as they watched over the rally, which attracted some 2000 people. Other than the arrests and minor scuffles, the 400 or more police were able to keep the situation under control.

By the time the rally began, officials estimated that about a third of the crowd was sympathetic to the Nazis led by Frank Collin.

The rally marked the culmination of a legal battle that had been going on for more than a year. The Nazis, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, fought through a number of court battles before they won the right to hold the public rally.

## NURSES SAY YES TO RIGHTS

HONOLULU — The American Nurses' Association's House of Delegates, meeting at the association's 51st convention here on June 14, adopted a resolution supporting the enactment of civil rights laws at the local, state and federal levels which would provide the same protection to persons regardless of sexual and affectional preference.

"Nurses are concerned about the basic human rights of every individual," said Ethelrine Shaw, chairperson of the ANA Commission on Human Rights. "Wherever nurses practice they want to give quality care to all persons regardless of their sexual preferences. Wherever nurses practice, they must be assured equal employment and economic opportunities."

## AMAZON IN TROUBLE

MILWAUKEE — Amazon, the publication of the feminist Amazon Collective here, is in financial trouble. In its June issue, the six-year-old publication announced that inflation, new typesetting equipment, higher production costs and continuing staff changes have contributed to the financial troubles.

Fund raisers are being planned within the Milwaukee feminist community. Long term support is being sought in the form of individual monthly pledges, increased subscription revenue and a greater amount of paid advertising.

Contributions or further information can be had by writing the Amazon Collective, 2211 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

## CARTER APPOINTS O'LEARY

NEW YORK — Jean O'Leary, co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force, has been appointed by President Carter to serve on the newly established National Advisory Committee for Women.

The committee, which is comprised of 40 members, will "advise on a regular basis of initiatives needed to promote full equality for American women," and assist in reviewing the applicability of such initiatives. It will also include recommendations of the 1977 National Women's Conference and promote the national observance of the United Nations Decade for Women, Equality, Development and Peace. The committee will be co-chaired by former Congressperson Bella Abzug and Carmen Votaw, president of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women.

O'Leary, the only publicly acknowledged gay serving on the committee, said that she was very pleased at this opportunity to represent the concerns of lesbians and all American women. She said, "We have a long way to go in removing barriers to full equality for women in this country. The establishment of a national committee which can advise the President on these matters is essential."

## LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD

BINGHAMPTON, NY — The Binghampton Women's Center has recently opened a new service, the Lesbian Switchboard, a confidential outlet for providing information about local and national resources for lesbians.

The Center, an issue-oriented community group, decided to sponsor the service because it had been receiving an increasing number of calls from gay women. The idea of a referral service grew out of a "lesbian issues" task force at the Center.

The study group concluded that there was a need to make information pertaining to lesbian issues and concerns more readily accessible. It found that many lesbians are isolated and others find it difficult to obtain knowledge of existing resources.

The Switchboard will operate from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Monday evenings. The telephone number is 607-722-3629.

## STREET VD TESTS

BOSTON — The Boston Gay Health Project is launching a new program of free VD testing on the street to begin in mid-July. On Saturday, July 15th and every second Saturday after, the medical van operated by Bridge Over Troubled Waters will be found at specific locations in Boston near popular gay bars, where people will be able to have blood tests for syphilis and cultures for gonorrhea done free of charge.

The Gay Health Collective emphasizes the need for sexually active men to have routine VD tests every three months. This need to keep track of one's sexual health is important, since 90% of the time, oral and rectal gonorrhea are without symptoms. At this time these on-the-street services will not be provided at lesbian locations since the service offered is VD testing and VD is not a major problem among exclusive lesbians.

This project is co-sponsored by three organizations. The Gay Health Collective of Boston (at the Fenway Community Health Center) will do the testing, Bridge Over Troubled Waters is supplying the van, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will provide supplies and lab work. (Gay people are also invited to take advantage of the Bridge van Monday-Friday evenings at Harvard Square or Park Square.)

The times and locations of the Boston Gay Health Project van will be publicized next week. Confidentiality will be assured. Test results will be posted and published by number in *Gay Community News*.

## INTEGRITY'S PRESIDENT

BOSTON — The National Office of Integrity, the organization for gay Episcopalians, has announced the appointment of John C. Lawrence as the new President. Lawrence, a resident of Boston who has long been active within the Episcopal Church, will replace Rev. Ronald D. Wesner. Rev. Wesner has served as President since July, 1976.

Lawrence, a registered nurse by profession, is President of the Gay Nurses' Alliance and serves on the Commission on Human Sexuality of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Lawrence will serve out the unexpired Presidential term which ends in August, 1979.

## Leonard Matlovich Story

# NBC Won't Set Date for Completed Gay Film

By Tom Hurley

NEW YORK CITY — "Sergeant Matlovich Versus the United States Air Force," a made-for-television drama based on the life of the highly decorated Air Force sergeant who was discharged because he is gay, has been finished for over a year now, but neither Tomorrow Entertainment, which produced the film, nor the National Broadcasting Company, which commissioned it, is saying for sure why the film has not yet been aired or when airing might occur. One knowledgeable source, however, is blaming the delay on a new NBC vice-president for programming who is less warm than his predecessor to the project.

"We have heard (that the film might be shown) in September, or maybe even August, but we're not sure," Cecilia Umhey, office manager for Tomorrow Entertainment, told GCN. She did note that the film was being scheduled for foreign distribution and speculated that the network's concern about proper timing and the film's effect on Matlovich's appeal might have prompted the delay.

After twelve years in the Air Force,

Matlovich came out to his superior officer on March 6, 1975 and was given a general discharge in September of that year. He has fought, so far unsuccessfully, to have the discharge reversed through Air Force boards of appeal and the federal courts.

### Competitive Scheduling

Jim Murray, a NBC public relations person, could give GCN no definite reason for the delay. "The decision is not mine to make," he said. "We're not obligated to air any show immediately. All scheduling is competitive."

Murray did confirm that NBC has not given up the project. "It is in the rather extensive inventory of films we have at the present time. It's still a line project as far as I know," Murray said. "We haven't yet begun to map out our fall schedule."

Asked whether recent repeals and defeats of gay legislation around the country might have affected the network's decision, Murray declined to speculate. "There would be no way to tell. I haven't discussed this with anyone in programming."

### A New Vice President

Meanwhile a knowledgeable source

Klein, who replaced Marvin Antonawsky as Executive Vice-President for Programming, would be unwilling to have the film shown.

NBC's Murray conceded that the change in the head of the programming department "will mean some adjustments," but he remained unspecific about what those "adjustments" might be.

### The Film

The film which intersperses Matlovich's courtroom hearings with flashbacks to his earlier life, was premiered last June 19 by the American Film Institute at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. Matlovich, who has recently moved from Washington to San Francisco, told GCN that he "really liked it. The audience reaction was really great too."

Although Matlovich hopes that Fred Silverman, the new NBC network president, may favor airing the film, he is growing impatient with the network's delay. "With the Briggs initiative in California, it's more contemporary than ever. I'll give them until August and if they haven't aired it by then, I'll really raise hell," said the prominent gay activist.



Leonard Matlovich

has attributed the delay to a new vice-president for programming at NBC. "The guy who wanted it to be shown has been moved to a new position. The new guy doesn't want to show it," the source, who wishes to remain anonymous, told GCN. The source had "no idea at all" about why Paul

## Youth Testifies in Hearings

# Boston Charges Police Officers in Beatings

BOSTON — The second day of testimony in the trial of three Boston police officers accused of misconduct in connection with the beating of three gay teenagers continued last week at Boston Police Headquarters. The City of Boston brought formal charges against Officers John Gillespie and Thomas Clifford, and Lt. Ralph Maglio, as a result of the incident, which occurred on Aug. 18, 1977 (see GCN, May 27, 1978).

Most of the afternoon was spent on testimony from Larry Brown, the youth in whose name the original complaint with the Internal Affairs Division (IAD) was filed. Brown, who was 17 years old and in drag at the time of the incident, said he had been walking with three friends from Brigham's in Copley Square to his Beacon Hill apartment, when he heard screaming noises from the Arlington

Street subway station.

Under direct examination by IAD prosecutor John W. Fieldsteel, Brown said he saw two men emerge from the station and run to their respective cars. When Marc Wood shouted out the license plate registration of one of the cars, both men turned and allegedly chased the youths down Arlington Street toward the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

### 'This is for Anita Bryant!'

Brown described how one of the men threw him to the ground and proceeded to kick him in the head and back, and finally in the groin, shouting, "This is for Anita Bryant!" He said he observed Wood being struck in the temple with a blunt object, while a third companion, Amandio Guerreiro, was screaming and crying.

A police cruiser arrived at the scene, and it was only then that the youths learned that the two men who had

allegedly beaten them were Officers John Gillespie and Thomas Clifford. Brown said he was then handcuffed and taken to Boston Police District Four. Along the way, the officers threatened to "dump him in the Charles River or Blue Hills." He quoted them as saying, "Queers have no right to live."

Under cross-examination by Frank McGee, counsel to the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, Brown reiterated his allegations. When Brown tried to explain that he feared for his life because of the threats made against him by the officers, McGee retorted, "Why don't you save your political statements for another place!"

### Gibson Testifies

The second and final prosecution witness was Rev. Randall Gibson of the Charles Street Meetinghouse and Project Lambda, a friend of all three youths. Gibson told Fieldsteel that he visited with the victims at their apartment a few hours after the incident. He described a laceration above Wood's left eye — apparently made by the butt of Clifford's gun — as well as bruise marks on Brown's back and side.

McGee interrogated Gibson as to why he did not think to have photographs taken of the injuries. The minister explained that he did not have a camera and did not think it would be necessary.

After Gibson concluded his testimony, a motion was made by Atty. Joseph McParland, counsel for Lt. Maglio, for a directed verdict of acquittal for his client, on the grounds that none of the complainants could specifically place Maglio at the police station on the night in question. Fieldsteel countered that one of the youths — Marc Wood — did indeed identify

Maglio as the "man in the white shirt" [Officers above the rank of sergeant wear white shirts]. Maglio, the night duty supervisor who was in charge of the station at the time, has been charged with submitting incomplete, inaccurate, and untruthful reports about the incident to IAD.

McGee then made a motion to include in the evidence the original tape made of Brown's complaint last August in order to compare it to his testimony on Monday. Fieldsteel vehemently objected on the grounds that IAD guarantees that such original complaints are confidential.

The hearing officer, Deputy Supt. Richard J. McKinnon, took both motions under advisement. The hearing was continued until next month, at which time, the defense will call their own witnesses, expected to be the police officers themselves.

### Bringing Brown to Boston

Brown was the most important of the three complainants, because the complaint was made in his name and because his injuries were the most severe. However, he moved from Boston shortly after the incident, and bringing him back to the city became a community effort.

With assistance from gay business people in Southern Florida, where he was originally from, Brown was ultimately located in North Hollywood, Calif. The next step was arranging for his trip. GCN writer David Brill coordinated the project, and received a number of donations to help finance the trip. [While the police themselves usually pay for victim and witness travel expenses in criminal matters, no such arrangements are made for administrative hearings.]

Brown's round-trip expenses — which amounted to more than \$400 — were paid for by donations from the Boston/Boise Committee, Massachusetts Caucus for Gay Legislation, the Social Action Committee of the Metropolitan Community Church, and several private benefactors desiring anonymity.

After the final session of the disciplinary hearing, McKinnon is required to submit a report of his findings "forthwith" to Police Commissioner Joseph M. Jordan, who then has seven business days to inform the officers of his decision. The officers then have ten days in which to appeal any punishment to the state's Civil Service.

## Gay Article Causes Halt to Distribution of Student Newspaper

BALTIMORE, MD — Distribution of a 20,000-copy newspaper to city high school students here has been halted by a school system administrator because of an article about the problems of gay students. The article in the paper, which is produced by minority students, contained the actual names of the students interviewed.

Dr. Rebeeca E. Carroll, deputy superintendent in charge of the city's Bureau of Education, said that the bureau will have to check out the "legality of this." Noting that many of the gay students interviewed in *The Scoop* were juveniles, Dr. Carroll added, "If these are real names, it may create a problem for the students."

The article in the newspaper, which is a publication of the black journalists' Minority Journalism Workshop, discussed the fear of gays being beaten by their fellow students when their sexual preference was known. The article also discussed a number of other

problems faced by gay high school students.

Wiley Hall, a reporter for the *Baltimore Evening Sun*, is a professional advisor to the nine-student staff which produced the newspaper. Hall, who edited the story, said he had not realized there would be a problem in using the students' names. "If it's a question of the legality of it [publishing the names of juveniles], I guess they're [the school system] perfectly right to look at it."

According to another student advisor, Fay Weleb of the Baltimore *Sunpapers*, the Student Press Law Center in Washington told her that publishing the names presented no legal problem if the juveniles had given their permission. "As long as the students agreed to be quoted," Welch said she was told, "nobody else could interfere."

The current school year has ended in Baltimore and it seems apparent that the student newspaper has not been distributed.

# EDITORIAL

## Five Years of Doing It Together

Five years ago, a group of a dozen people met in the Charles Street Meeting-house to discuss the problem of communication within Boston's local gay community. There were a handful of organizations and bars serving lesbians and gay men, but there was no way of knowing when meetings, demonstrations, and other events were occurring. The lack of communication was a sign of the lack of coherence in the community, but people were ready for a change.

The initial meeting was attended by both women and men, and representatives from most of the active gay organizations. Several plans were proposed to facilitate better communication. Someone suggested writing a weekly page on issues of concern to gay people in the *Phoenix* or *Real Paper*; another person suggested meeting with the *Boston Globe* to discuss the paper's coverage of gay issues. The proposal accepted enthusiastically by the people attending the meeting, was for the founding of the *Gay Community Newsletter*, which would "list all the events and information of interest to the gay community in one publication."

GCN began as a five page mimeographed newsletter and has developed into a weekly newspaper with news and features of interest to lesbians and gay men throughout the country. While most people judge the finished *product* — the

newspaper, the *process* which has formed GCN and continues to sustain it, provides an important lesson for the gay community. This has been a process of defining a need within the community, choosing the most effective course of action, and implementing it for ourselves.

Over the past five years, over 200 women and men have written, edited, typeset, proofread, designed, managed, and mailed out GCN. These have been people willing to take on the responsibility of providing accurate information to a diverse gay community. They have not depended on the straight media to present gay issues in an objective fashion; the straight media has shown that it has no interest in providing the gay community with objective news coverage.

Five years is a long time, but the changes that have occurred in society have not altered the basic situation that GCN's founders faced. Gay people continue to organize themselves to confront the basic political, economic, and social issues that face them. On *our* birthday, let us remember that we must continue to sustain, mobilize, and organize our own community. We must do it together. No one is going to do it for us.

## COMMUNITY VOICES

As GCN celebrates its 5th Birthday, we thought we would give over our Community Voices section to people who don't necessarily write letters to us. When we ask our subscribers to renew their subscriptions, we also encourage them to make any comments they have about GCN. We urge them to, "Let us know what you like, what you don't like, and any suggestion you have for news articles or features."

We always need to know what our readers think and what, indeed, you need in a weekly newspaper. On our Birthday, we'd thought we would share some of that subscriber feedback with you.

I like your newspaper very much. I rely on it, along with some friends of mine, in compiling a gay news report of KUNM-FM in Albuquerque. Albuquerque, NM

A great job of reporting. Keep up the good work in 1978. Thanks for caring.  
East Haddam, CT

Your newspaper is always EXCELLENT. You may well be super proud.  
Saugus, MA

I may not always agree with everything I read in GCN, but I do look to it as a source of information and support that I could not replace if GCN were to cease publication.  
Waterbury, CT

Probably the best thing in the gay media. I especially appreciate your intelligent, non-sexist, all-inclusive reporting and features.  
State College, PA

Thanks for the good coverage of our battle. It was far superior to the 'National' gay press.  
St. Paul, MN

My 18 year old son and I compete to see who gets to read GCN first. We especially look forward to reading page 2 (News Notes). Some of our other favorites are book reviews, movie reviews and "Did you See."  
Boston

I would like to see more articles and information by, for and about women.  
Canton, MA

I love and adore you and hate the notion of the huge void your demise would leave.  
New York City

GCN is the best integrated gay men and women's newspaper that I have seen so far.  
San Francisco, CA

You are publishing without a doubt New England's best paper for gays — most informative. Thank you.  
Worcester, MA

What has GCN got against us up here in Maine? For example, virtually no publicity on the Gay Symposium V held this past weekend. Also, no "Maine" section in the Quick Gay Guide. We're up here.  
Camden, ME

The nature of my work and lifestyle prohibit me from being socially politically active, but GCN keeps me aware of what's happening. To be sure when I see other sources quoting GCN, it is because the calibre and credibility are the epitome of good journalism.  
Medford, MA

Please, more women's stuff. Is greater coverage of Western Massachusetts possible?  
Greenfield, MA

I want more local news. You are not relevant to my area.  
Madison, WI

You're too male oriented. While reading your paper I sometimes felt that you addressed women or men, that your articles concerning women were more patronizing and living up to a standard rather than motivated by a sense of unity and sharing.  
New York City

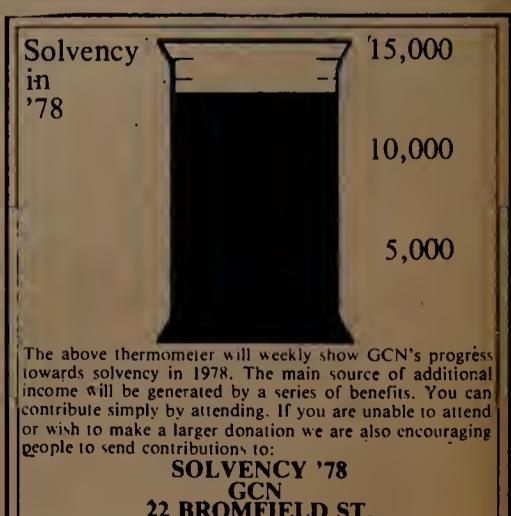
I cannot tell you how much your paper has meant to me during my incarceration and I have been incarcerated since May of 1975. It has been of great help and a great inspiration for me.  
Ionia, MI

Keep up the good work kids, you are certainly doing one hell of a great job. Would like to see a little more cheesecake as a regular thing and some sexually oriented stories.  
Boston

You are too silly, trendy, oriented to gay men. You are not clear on political issues. There is just a lot I found offensive in GCN.  
Hartford, CT

You're great . . . please renew my subscription for another 12 weeks.  
Dallas, TX

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## SPEAKING OUT

### Ann Weld-Harrington Runs for State Rep.

By Jane R. Marlowe

Ann Weld-Harrington has announced that she will be a write-in candidate for state representative from the Cape Cod district that includes Provincetown. She is printing up stickers to distribute to voters on September 19th, the date of the primary election. Because of a foul-up in the local bureaucracy, she is unable to be included on the ballot. However, she is well-known in the district and has a good chance to win the nomination this way.

Weld-Harrington is running as an openly gay candidate, although she doesn't plan to make her homosexuality a major campaign issue. She hopes to win the support of Provincetown's large gay community, although less than ten percent of the gay community is presently registered to vote.

She is currently serving as Provincetown's Civil Defense director and is extensively involved in many phases of local politics. Her involvement with gay politics began in 1968 in Cleveland, where she was involved in changing the unsavory conditions in the city's gay bars. Since moving to Massachusetts with her two daughters in 1974, much of Weld-Harrington's time has been devoted to furthering the cause of gay rights.

Weld-Harrington is especially concerned about issues of health, education, and transportation on the Cape, which affect the gay population that lives, works and plays in P-Town. There is no hospital within fifty miles of the town, and the clinics are not equipped to handle many cases.

"If someone had a heart attack," Weld-Harrington said, "a local doctor would first determine whether it was worth it to take them by ambulance all the way to Hyannis." Dental facilities are so sparse that a visitor with a dental emergency has to return to Boston to be treated.

She is also disturbed by the lack of a four-year college on the Cape. A family has no choice but to send its children away to school, even if the student prefers to live at home. It also makes it difficult for adults to continue their educations.

Much of the gay community is unemployed when the tourist season ends, and Weld-Harrington would like to see train service put in for the entire Cape. This would allow residents to commute to Boston during the winter.

If elected, she intends to deliver a gay rights bill to the House and make sure it passes. She doesn't see why it hasn't been passed in the last two attempts, and feels a need for more communication between legislators and the gay community. Weld-Harrington criticizes legislators who make deals with the bureaucracy and deceive their constituency. She wants to see if she can be out front with the bureaucracy at the same time as working closely with the gay community to write a bill that will be acceptable to both the House and Senate.

She is supportive of other gay candidates, including Elaine Noble. She feels, "we owe it to ourselves to have more gay candidates. It helps our movement if they're in office."

Right now, Weld-Harrington is building up the tremendous forces she needs to win the write-in ballot in September. She is asking both the P-Town and Boston gay communities for assistance on any level, especially for fundraising and helping to hand out the stickers that voters will place on their ballots on election day.

In a message to the gay community, Weld-Harrington stated, "I think it's time that we work together and make every effort to pull together." She would like to see a community center, a publication, and more voter responsibility on the part of Provincetown's gay residents. "we're facing an increasing battle against the Right. The recent defeats in Wichita, St. Paul, and Eugene are clear examples of our own inability to unify and understand our position in the political scheme."

"Speaking Out" is the column designed for the benefit of GCN readers. It is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your thoughts, ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Speaking Out, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

heartache felt by those homosexuals who truly want but never can achieve this lifestyle.

Why anyone would "choose" to be gay is beyond me. I have been attracted to males ever since fifth grade, and nowhere in my sexual development do I recall "choosing" to like men instead of women. It was just an spontaneous, uncontrollable inclination I had. I had no control over it. Mine is a life of shame, loneliness, depression and

frustration, and believe me, Abby, I did not choose it.

#### ACCIDENTALLY GAY

DEAR GAY: I believe you, and I know that you speak for many, but you need not continue in a life of loneliness, depression and frustration. Homosexual counseling is available, and I recommend it. You desperately need to accept yourself and respect yourself. And you are as entitled to happiness and a full life as any other human being. God bless.

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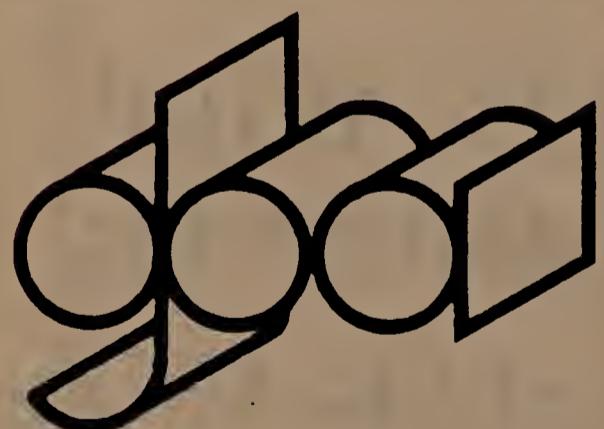
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# Walinsky Suit Against Gay Activists Alliance Continues

By Harold Pickett

NEW YORK CITY — Attorney Adam Walinsky is continuing his \$2.1 million law suit against the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA). On June 14 Walinsky, who served as an aide to mayoral candidate Mario Cuomo, demanded that all the defendants in the case appear in Mt. Vernon, NY for an "Examination Before Trial." The procedure allows the defendants to answer questions under oath with a court reporter present. All the individuals refused to appear.

On Feb. 25, GCN reported that GAA was named in the suit by Walinsky who authored an anti-gay article attacking the proposed New York City gay rights bill. That article appeared a year ago in the *Daily News*.

As a result of the article, GAA publicized its intentions to picket Walinsky's home. GAA members, as well as a number of other people, showed up for the night-time demonstration last Aug. 4.

Walinsky sued, charging GAA with "unlawful harassment" and claiming he suffered "mental anguish." It was also claimed that Jane Walinsky was

"distressed" and had trouble sleeping as a result of the demonstration and that the children were "fearful."

According to Joe Kennedy, who was chairperson of GAA's Political Action Committee, Walinsky wanted to "establish the precedence that not only an organization but also the individuals who happen to be its elected officials can be sued for an action." Kennedy and civil rights attorney Lynn F. Stewart, an observer at the action, were personally named in the suit.

Walinsky is now asking the judge in Mt. Vernon to issue a court order directing the defendants to appear in court, attaching a jail sentence to the order, if they refuse. Walinsky claims he lost a considerable amount of money preparing for the "Examination Before Trial," with expenses going to pay his lawyers, the court stenographer, and a notary, who were all present at his request.

However, William J. Thomas, of the law firm Boggan and Thomas, representing GAA, has filed several counter-motions which halt the court

order. Thomas is asking that the "Examination Before Trial" be completely dropped and that Walinsky be directed to rewrite his "defective" complaint. In particular, it's asked that all references to Walinsky's children be dropped, stating these references are "irrelevant and inflammatory" since the children weren't home during the demonstration.

The counter-motion also questions "injuries" done to Jane Walinsky, as only Adam Walinsky is listed as an owner of the house.

In the suit against GAA, "forty Jane and John Does" are named as co-defendants, the alleged number of demonstrators who participated in the Walinsky action. A motion has been filed which, if accepted, would require Walinsky to post a bond of \$500,000 to cover the legal fees of all the defendants in the case, should Walinsky lose the suit.

At this writing, William Kunstler, the famous civil rights lawyer, is considering joining the case in GAA's defense. Reportedly, Kunstler is "studying the papers and tentatively

leaning in that direction."

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund will also decide at their July 10 board meeting whether or not to adopt the issue as "a major constitutional case."

In a related event, on June 21, 1978, anonymous activists marked the first anniversary of Walinsky's *Daily News* article by calling a "Phone-In For Freedom." A well-prepared leaflet was distributed giving the details of Walinsky's article and his office phone number. Individuals were urged to phone and protest Walinsky's "denying freedom to gay activists . . . Call Walinsky at his office and tell him you disagree with his anti-gay and anti-freedom positions," the leaflet stated.

Apparently the action was effective. Walinsky reportedly said "All work was completely brought to a halt" during the day. Some people who phoned the office are rumored to have spoken to Walinsky, personally, for up to 20 minutes in a point, counter-point debate. The majority of the calls, however, tied up the office phones and reduced the day's activities to chaos.

## Candidates Attend Mass. Caucus for Gay Legislation Funder

CAMBRIDGE, MA — About 75 people attended a benefit sponsored by the Mass. Caucus for Gay Legislation (MCGL) on July 6 at the Paradise Cafe here, despite a Metropolitan Boston transit strike.

The benefit was held to raise money for MCGL and to introduce the gay community to the candidates supported by the committee. Some \$200 was raised during the evening.

State Rep. Barney Frank (D-Back Bay), State Rep. Frank Hatch (R-Beverly) and State Rep. Saundra

Graham (I-Cambridge) could not attend because of their mandatory presence at a State House meeting to settle the wildcat walkout by the transit union.

However, Barbara Ackermann, Democratic nominee for Governor, State Rep. Elaine Noble (D-Back Bay), a candidate for the Democratic US Senate nomination, Cambridge City Councillor Mary Ellen Preusser and Steve Trinward, an Independent candidate for the State Senate were in attendance.

At a meeting held last month, MCGL endorsed Rep. Frank for re-election and Rep. Hatch, who is seeking the Republican gubernatorial nomination. MCGL has also endorsed Ackermann who has filed enough names on petitions to qualify in the primary.

According to MCGL's Dave Drolet, Ackermann had 500 signatures more than the 10,000 needed. He added that Gay Legislation had collected 500 names for the candidate.

Drolet told GCN, "It's great to have the candidates campaigning in the gay bars just as they do in San Francisco and New York. They are the leaders of public opinion, they make it and they respond to it."

Drolet added that when the candidates start "treating us as another group to be courted for votes and support, the rest of the larger community they represent will follow suit and become less frightened and more accepting."

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# Boston Neighborhood Battles Against Bay Village Bar

BOSTON — Residents of Boston's Bay Village neighborhood gathered last Monday, July 10, at the Church of All Nations for a community meeting to voice outrage at the noise and crime which they assert has increased since the re-opening of The Other Side (also known as Penny's Arcade and The Great American Disaster) on June 16.

Bay Village Neighborhood Association president June McCourt opened the meeting and turned the program over to BVNA co-counsel Michael DeMarco. Other head table guests included Rep. Barney Frank, Boston Police Supt. John Doyle, BVNA co-counsel Joseph Edwards, and Assistant Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy O'Neill.

"We all know what happened three or four weeks ago," DeMarco told the crowd, which was estimated to be about one-quarter gay. At that time, The Other Side — an establishment which neighborhood forces fought for seven years to close down — re-opened as an all-night "juice bar" with pool tables, pinball machines, disco dancing, and coin-operated vending machines, but no liquor. The hours are 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Residents complained about a dramatic increase in noise, litter, male and female prostitution, auto traffic, vandalism, and general harassment since the establishment re-opened. One resident described finding human feces on his front stairs one morning, while one woman, eight months pregnant, told of how she was awakened one night by a man standing in her bedroom who threatened to shoot her if she did not hand over her jewelry. An

elderly man said he had not slept in three weeks.

One of the most serious incidents occurred early in the morning of July 8, when a 28-year-old Charlestown man was arrested for assaulting a police officer with intent to murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and unlawful possession of a firearm. The incident occurred at about 3:30 a.m. when Officer Patrick Nee attempted to disperse a group of men and women standing at Melrose and Church Streets.

Rep. Barney Frank delivered a sharp attack upon the owner of The Other Side, Henry Vara. "One thing has been proven now — that Henry Vara cannot behave decently. If he wants to declare war on this neighborhood, I am prepared to declare war in return," shouted Frank. "Vara is incapable of being trusted with a liquor license anywhere in this city."

According to Police Supt. John Doyle, the licensing procedures governing the operation of the new Other Side involve "a gray area" in the law. Doyle explained that there is some legal dispute as to the supervision of the licenses when no liquor is being sold on the premises. "It's a new area for us," he said. He added that the police department is compiling a list of complaints relating to the establishment and asked neighborhood residents to help by reporting all problems to "911," the police department's emergency line.

DeMarco hinted at one problem which is central to the residents' concerns when he said that Boston Licensing Board chairperson Andrea

W. Gargiulo had indicated she may possibly convene a hearing into the matter "in late August or early September." The Bay Village residents were outraged that Gargiulo would

delay such a tumultuous problem for more than six weeks and began exploring other avenues — including judicial action — to bring some relief for their complaints.

## Justice Bonin Censured

*Continued from Page 1*

stumbling — which did call for caution was that the Chief Justice had good reason to infer that the particular meeting would trench on matters pending in his court; and so it did in fact."

### Dukakis Asks Resignation

Immediately following the decision, Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, who first appointed Bonin to his post last March, called upon the judge to resign. "Now that the Court's findings and order have been issued, it is my responsibility as Chief Executive to do all in my power to maintain the integrity of the Court and public confidence in our judicial system. In my judgment, a person who has been held to violate the above canons and who has been censured by the highest Court in this state can no longer effectively lead our Superior Court . . . I hereby request that you submit your resignation as Chief Justice of the Superior Court."

Both the *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald American* have also called upon the judge to resign, although he has consistently refused to do so. Through his attorneys, Paul Sugarman and David J. Sargent, Bonin stated that he does not believe that the SJC's decision warrants resignation.

### Legislature Must Remove

Only the legislature, not the SJC, can remove a judge from office. Such action — through the "bill of address" method — is already pending, in the form of legislation

sponsored by Rep. Peter Y. Flynn (D-Bridgewater). Gov. Dukakis has announced plans to recall the adjourned Legislature back into session on July 31 for the purpose of removing Bonin from office. The "bill of address" procedure is similar to other legislation in that it requires approval by simple majority in both branches and the approval of the governor. The difference is that it also requires approval by the Executive Council, which confirms judicial appointments.

In a late development, the legislature's Executive Council voted unanimously to direct the State Treasurer and Comptroller to halt Bonin's salary. The six Councillors voted for a resolution introduced by Patrick McDonough (D-Boston), which directed the state to "withhold as of today any and all payments to Chief Justice Bonin and that these payments not be made until a further determination is made." The action could mean the stoppage of Bonin's \$800 a week salary.

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# An Analysis: Spain's Gay Community Continues Its Struggle

The following analysis is a special report to GCN by Amanda Powell. Powell is now living in Madrid.

MADRID, Spain — "Bring an umbrella, you never know but it might rain," was the directive given to members of the obligatory "servicio de orden" that was to accompany the recent demonstration of "Struggle against Homosexual Oppression." The order came after it was learned that the march had been assigned by authorities to a notoriously right-wing section of Madrid, rather than the working-class neighborhood that had been requested.

Fascist youth groups have been attacking participants in leftist marches and rallies [On March 8, as the demonstration marking International Women's Day ended, some women and men still carrying banners and making their way home encountered attacks by youths with razors, bottles and chains] and there was some reason to fear that the reaction to the first gay march in Madrid might be as extreme. A recent decree, ostensibly aimed against violence from the right, forbids demonstrators from carrying any object intended for use as a weapon (hence the umbrella) or from "dressing in such a way as to impede immediate identification."

## No Disruptions

The *manifestacion* of gays and sympathizers - headed by banners of the Homosexual Liberation Front of Castille surrounded by the demonstrators' *servicio de orden* who linked arms the length of the march, and followed by a squadron of police jeeps - didn't lift a single umbrella in self-defense.

A small bomb tossed from a balcony at the head of the march provoked some confusion and shouts of "It's you, fascists, who are the terrorists." But, order was immediately restored by the demonstrators and the march proceeded without further incident.

The press estimated the number of marchers at more than 7,000; they included members of the FLHOC [Frente de Liberacion Homosexual de Castrilla], autonomous feminist organizations, and 18 leftist parties, labor unions, youth and "socially marginalized" groups. Few of the onlookers who filled the sidewalks joined the march. Many reacted with quiet curiosity, but there was also much applause and some indication of support.

## Hunger Strike and Rally

In Barcelona, where in June 1977 the first gay march in Spain was met with severe police repression and resulted in several wounded and numerous arrests, the provincial government refused authorization for this year's demonstration. In protest, about 15 members of FAGC [Front d'Alliberament Gai de Catalunya] closed themselves in a church and began a hunger strike.

The authorities' offer of a park rather than the central streets of the city for the demonstration was rejected as "another example of the ghetto, which is precisely what we are fighting." Early in the evening of June 25, about 2,000 people demonstrated in the downtown area in an unauthorized response to a "call to action" from various gay organizations.

## Spain's Laws and Attitudes

The success of the demonstration in

Madrid — and the suppression of attempts to organize in Barcelona — are significant in light of several factors. Severely reactionary Spanish legislation regarding those who, like lesbians and gay men, drug addicts, prostitutes and alcoholics, are officially termed "socially dangerous," permits "preventive" or "special" punishment and isolation of potential "delinquents." This, even if no misdemeanor is committed.

Theoretically, those affected by the law cannot be penalized, but are subjected to "security measures" to be carried out in "special facilities" — temperance houses, work-rehabilitation centers. In fact, the overwhelming majority are in the same jails as political and "common prisoners." They, however, are not affected by the amnesties and pardons granted since Franco's death in 1975.

Further articles at all legislative levels punish homosexuals for "public scandal," "transgressions against morality and decency," and "corruption of minors." Against the harshness of the legal situation, and the constant threat of "free-lance" harassment and attack from the right, gay organizations and demands have received scarce support from leftist groups.

Though few parties follow the line declared by the "Maoist" Spanish Workers' Party in 1977 — "...Homosexuality is determined by 'degeneration of the life of the individual'...it should be condemned..." — the general attitude of the left is one of liberal tolerance which lends little actual help to the cause.

Many were called but few showed up to plan the "Day of Struggle" in Madrid. The burden of organizing and publicity was carried out by representatives of small [and moneyless] feminist, revolutionary, left and "socially marginalized" groups. The morning's rally had to be called off when the only locale that the FLHOC was able to obtain for the event was closed to those who tried to attend.

Almost every leftist group lent the strength of its name and banner to the demonstration. There is some indication that the number and evident enthusiasm of those assembled served at least to raise the issue of each organization's commitment to gay struggle, both in regard to support or repression of their own militants' sexual choices.

## The Gay Movement in Spain

Like the feminist movement here, the history and development of gay activism in Spain has necessarily been marked by involvement with, or reaction to, leftist forms of political organizing under the brutal repression of 40 years of Franco's rule.

In 1971, the Spanish Homosexual Liberation Movement [MELH] was created primarily to sensitize homosexuals themselves to social discrimination. MELH attended the International Congress of Homosexuals in Paris in 1973, and the Congress for Homosexual Rights in Edinburgh in 1974.

Because of internal political divergences in 1976, the Madrid group dissolved. The Barcelona organization changed its name to the Gay Liberation Front of Catalunya [FAGC]. This

*Continued on page 10*

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# The Movement in Spain

*Continued from page 9*

group's Marxist analysis of sexuality considers that the capitalist mode of production required reproduction of the work force, cannot tolerate homosexuality, and that the liberation of the working class through class struggle is therefore essential to the true liberation of every individual's sexuality.

After the "Congress of Social Marginalization" held in Valencia in 1976, other organizations were formed in different parts of Spain with a political line similar to FAGC. Following a considerable ideological split in this organization, the Coordinator of Collectives for Gay Liberation [CCAG] was formed last March, partly as a response to the "integration" by official social organizations.

## Confronting the System

The program and "grass roots" organizing strategies of the CCAG could be of particular interest to gay groups trying to put a socialist-feminist analysis of sexual oppression into practice in the United States.

"We confront the system as a whole, we are not only trying to find solutions to the homosexual problem... We seek to analyze daily life so as to transform it: this is the path of a liberation movement..." CCAG, as it states, functions as diverse autonomous collectives working together on the basis of concrete tasks and projects.

Neighborhood and local collectives coordinate the efforts of people who are active in community organizations, to develop new projects and participate in those already underway. "We try to reach all members of a community," CCAG states, "men and women, to make direct contact with those who carry on homosexual practices or who believe that this is another way to express their sexuality. It is a question of our beginning to organize openly everywhere, especially in working-class neighborhoods, but also in schools, businesses, etc."

In Madrid, three groups were formerly active, the Democratic Homosexual movement [MDH], which centered its efforts in legal and social reform; the Homosexual Front for Revolutionary Action [FHAR]; and the anarchist "Mercury Group." In January of this year the three joined to form FLHOC which is ideologically very close to FAGC.

## Lesbian Participation

Little basis existed for the participation of lesbians in the events planned for June 25. Only five women belong to FLHOC and at present are hardly active in the group. The many feminist organizations that pose "free sexuality" as a fundamental demand have seldom demonstrated a concrete commitment to lesbian liberation in theory or practice. These groups do place constant emphasis on information and on distribution of contraceptives—a crucial area for action since these are still illegal.

It is difficult for lesbians, bisexual or straight women to openly raise their "personal" experiences and needs as collective concerns in women's groups, many of whose members have come to feminist activism through experiences in political parties during the years of "clandestinidad." Protective secrecy often necessitated, for example, the use of "war names" between members of a group—a practice hardly conducive to the development of close personal sharing as a collective process to be analyzed in a political light.

## Lesbians and Feminists

The party background and fear of alienating "popular opinion" contributes to many Spanish feminists' consideration of lesbianism as a "marginal" issue "not affecting the masses of women," rather than as a question central to the liberation of *all* women's sexuality—to the fundamental redefinition by women of their own personal and political

identity, relationships and power. No politically organized group of feminist lesbians exists in Madrid (though lesbian collectives have formed in Barcelona and Valencia). The male organizers of the rally and demonstration, obviously trying to keep the language of press statements and demands "unsexist," and rather abstractly lamenting the double oppression of female homosexuality, did not initially invite or facilitate the involvement of women as lesbians from those asked to give support as representatives of feminist groups.

## Lesbian Oppression

A small group of women from various women's centers and FLHOC met to discuss these difficulties and to prepare a statement on the special nature of lesbian oppression to be read during the morning rally. The rally itself was postponed until the following Sunday when it was again forbidden at the last minute, this time by the civil authorities.

The statement called for the beginning of clear discussion and active cooperation between women involved in feminist groups and those who have chosen to focus their activities in gay organizations. A *Coordinadora* composed of lesbians from radical and socialist-feminist groups, parties, labor unions, gay organizations, and "independents" is being formed in order to analyze the situation of lesbians and develop practical strategies towards the realization of lesbians' needs and demands in these political groups and through them in the society as a whole.

As a result of planning for and participation in the events on June 25, a more open and serious consideration of the condition of lesbians seems to be developing in various feminist organizations in Madrid.

## The Demands

The principal demands put forward by the Homosexual Front of Castile and supported by feminist and social

groups, parties, and unions include repeal of the "Law of Social Menace" and of all articles that punish homosexuality; amnesty for all those imprisoned because of homosexual conduct; establishment of 14 years as the minimum legal age of consent in sexual relations (the Spanish Civil Code permits marriage at 14 years of age for males and 12 years for females); equality of women and men "in all senses;" adequate sexual education at every level of schooling, considering sexuality not only as the means of reproduction but fundamentally as a source of pleasure and communication, without distinctions between heterosexuality and homosexuality.

The demands also included a call for no interference of the moral doctrines of any religious faith in the regulation of sexual norms; social recognition of the right of every human being to control her or his own body, to show affection in public, to dress as she or he may desire, and to meet and associate freely. Like many women's and leftist groups, FLHOC also stated in "non-specific" demands, that there be the right to abortion and divorce.

# Newspaper

*Continued from Page 1*

Liberties Union, the Lambda Legal Defense Fund is representing the National Gay Task Force, a gay prisoner and four publications (GCN, *Join Hands*, *It's Time* and *Off Our Backs*) in that challenge.

Attorney Margo Karle told GCN that *NGTF et al. vs Carlson* U.S. Bureau of Prisons Chief Norman Carlson continues. "We are in the interrogatory stage right now," she said.

As Karle explained, the government, defenders of the bureau, has sent some 40 pages and 62 pounds of documents in answer to the questions of the plaintiff's attorneys. The government has now begun its written questioning of the plaintiffs.



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Happy Birthday to you . . .  
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# Inmate Sues Vermont Correctional Facility in Assault Case

By Philip Shehadi

WHITE RIVER JCT., VT — A suit against the St. Johnsbury, VT Correctional Center charging negligence in the February rape of 17 year old inmate Richard Herschel has been answered by the lawyer for the defendant, Corrections Commissioner Cornelius Hogan.

The complaint answer denies the allegations that the Corrections Department of the prison failed "to provide, implement or follow adequate security measures" to protect Herschel and to "provide adequate psychological or physical care and treatment" for injuries resulting from the assault. The defense response fur-

thermore moved to dismiss the case altogether on the grounds that the Corrections Department is immune from prosecution, even if the allegations were in fact to be proven.

The claim of judicial immunity will be the subject of a hearing to be held in the coming weeks. The lawyer for the prosecuting assault victim, Peter Welch of the White River Junction firm Welch & Graham, told GCN he is confident that the motion to dismiss will be rejected. If there are no specific statutes outlining the responsibilities of prison officials in the care and protection of inmates, principles of negligence are enough a part of

traditional common law to have a good case against the Correctional Center, he said.

Pointing out that the suit is not unprecedented, he cited the 1976 ruling of a Virginia District Court awarding \$50,000 to the victim of a prison sexual assault. The American Civil Liberties Union is currently involved in litigation against a New Mexican state prison (see GCN, Vol. 5, No. 34), in this case specifically on behalf of gay prisoners.

Although the victim of the February St. Johnsbury incident is not known to be gay, he was otherwise specially vulnerable to sexual harassment in so far as he is young and had newly ar-

rived at the prison where the event took place. He had allegedly been attacked by six inmates, three of whom have since been convicted, one acquitted, and the remaining two dismissed for lack of evidence.

The suit charged that the assault occurred and continued nearly two hours "as a result of the defendant's (the Corrections Department) negligence." Prison superintendent Ted Allen was quoted at the time as calling the rape an "unusual incident" which presumably did not merit any special concern (see GCN, Vol. 5, No. 35). He will be among those interrogated in the upcoming hearings.

## Boston Demonstrators Protest Federal Criminal Code Bill

BOSTON — A number of lesbians and gay men and gay organizations joined in the July 5 protest against the US Senate bill which would revise the federal criminal code. The demonstration on Boston's City Hall Plaza was called by the Coalition to Stop S. 1437 and was attended by some 65 people.

According to Mitch Rubin, spokesperson for the Coalition, the bill threatens the civil liberties of all American citizens. Opponents of the measure pointed out that it threatens the right to strike, the right to hold protests against government policy, freedom of the press and the right to advertise abortion information through the mail.

The bill, which is co-sponsored by Mass. Sen. Edward Kennedy, is viewed



Boston/Boise's Tom Reeves at demonstration

Ken Rabb

as detrimental to the gay and women's movements.

Speaking at the rally, Roger Gottlieb, of the Committee Against Anti-Semitism, called S. 1437 a streamlined version of Fascism. Gottlieb's statement was echoed by speakers from Families and Friends of Prisoners, the United Electrical Workers union, the Clamshell Alliance and the Boston/Boise Committee.

Tom Reeves of Boston/Boise told the crowd why gay people joined other minorities in opposition to the legislation. He said that passage of the bill would have prohibited his organization's demonstrations against Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett Byrne.

"This is the first step toward a national police state," Reeves told the

rally. "I am not surprised that Sen. Kennedy is in support of this measure . . . it is the kind of liberalism he stands for . . . the kind which supports the state and not the people."

As the supporters of the Coalition to Stop S. 1437 rallied in the Plaza, about 13 members of the organization held a vigil in the office of Sen. Kennedy.

The vigil began at 9 a.m. in the reception area of the 24th floor office in the John F. Kennedy Office Building. The Senator was not in his office at the time, but an appointment was made to meet with the group at a later date.

Further demonstrations are planned by the Coalition. According to Rubin, the organization will continue to contact members of Congress and urge them to vote against the measure.

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# NEVER CAN An Interview with GCN's Ian

Interviewed by Eric Rofes

Two of the people who attended the original meetings to discuss the beginnings of a gay community newsletter can still be found working in the offices at 22 Bromfield Street. Ian Johnson and Dave Peterson appear in the first masthead that was included in the paper; Ian as editor, Dave as distribution manager. Over the past five years they have held different positions on the staff of the paper. While Ian left for a two year hiatus from GCN and moved to San Francisco, Dave has been consistently working for GCN throughout the five year period. These days, Dave is head of promotions and Ian is a consultant to GCN's Board of Directors. GCN interviewed them concerning the early days of the paper and the more recent changes that have occurred at the *Gay Community News*.

**Eric Rofes:** Each year when GCN has its birthday, someone has written a brief history of the paper. Reading these stories, I have found some differences in the facts that have been reported involving the actual process of founding GCN. Were you two present at the beginnings of the paper?

**Ian Johnson:** Yes, we were both at that first meeting.

**ER: When was that meeting?**

**Dave Peterson:** It was on June 13, 1973 and it was held at the Charles Street Meetinghouse.

**ER: Who was responsible for calling the meeting?**

**DP:** It was I who called it.

**IJ:** This meeting wasn't called for the paper, per se. The meeting was to discuss problems of communication within the gay community.

**DP:** My interpretation of it was that the meeting was to see if there was enough energy in the community to do something like a newsletter. I don't know if anyone had any idea at that meeting that it would result in what the paper is now.

**IJ:** You have to understand what the gay community was like at that time. The community basically consisted of HUB, the Homophile Union of Boston, DOB, MCC, and the Fag Rag Bunch.

**DP:** There was also the Gay Community Center Ad Hoc Committee.

**IJ:** This meeting was my first official act in the gay community.

**ER: What were you doing before this meeting?**

**IJ:** I'd been involved in lots of other political causes. I'd been out for a long time but I wasn't politically out, because there wasn't much of a political movement. I'd been to some of the dances that the Community Center Committee had and because of that I became involved with the coffee house, scraping the ceiling, and that's when I met Randy Gibson. At that time I was on unemployment and I had quite a bit of time. Randy convinced me to come to this meeting because it was something I could do. So I appeared at this meeting under the guise of it was to discuss communication in the gay community. The other thing being discussed was that the *Phoenix* and the *Real Paper* were not really doing adequate coverage for gay people. One of the alternatives discussed was to contact them and get them to discuss giving one page a week for gay issues. And that alternative, I think, was turned down in favor of having a gay publication within the gay community.

**ER: Who was at this initial meeting?**

**DP:** There were about fifteen people.

**ER: Men and women?**

**DP:** Yes, it was fairly mixed. Before we get to that, let me give you some background as to how the meeting came about. There had been, to my

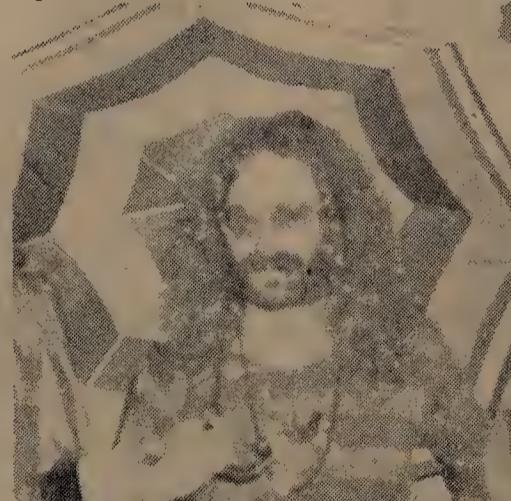
knowledge, three people who had previously put out newsletters — Charley Shively, Stan Tillotson, and Craig Thiersch. Craig's was the most recent one. These were basically weekly publications, one-page xeroxed sheet, which would give meeting notices of various organizations, and give information on a rally if it was coming up. These newsletters were sent out first-class postage to people who were on a list, like Charley had a list of lots of people who were active in the community.

**IJ:** It wasn't gigantically public. It was mostly through friends and associations. If you knew the right people you could get put on the list. It wasn't secret either, but you had to make the connections.

**ER: Were they competing with each other?**

**DP:** No, one would be around for two or three months or as long as a person could stand it. Then they would burn out and a few months would pass, and the next person would try one. There was also a publication put out by the Homophile Union of Boston, and DOB had one, which is still going, *Focus*. But the whole thing was that these publications did not fill the need of the community.

**IJ:** There was a lot of energy at that first meeting and I was very captivated by the fact that there were all these



Ian Johnson, 1974

people who had had experience in gay liberation. But what happened when it came time to actually do it was that all these people were doing all the things that were already being done, and nobody had the time to do the paper. So Randy turned to me and said, "Well, Ian, you have lots of time, Why don't you be in charge of getting out the first issue?" And I was sort of swept away by the offer to do it and I didn't have any good reason not to, so I said, "Sure." So GCN was born. At the time we were thinking of a couple page newsletter, which was what we were for the first issues — a mimeographed, four or five page newsletter.

**ER: Why did it change from that?**

**IJ:** Because the gay community in Boston was coming together at that time. It was the right place and the right time. The Meetinghouse was becoming, basically, a de facto

community center. All these people were coming there and there was a lot of energy generated. Finally there was a place for people to come and have some semblance of saying, this was home, this was protected, no one was going to throw us out, and you could meet other people here.

**ER: What was it like "hanging out" in the Meetinghouse in those days?**

**IJ:** It was bizarre...

**DP:** It was crazy, absolutely crazy. The room that we had was a room in the back that Randy let us use. I think it should be said that if it weren't for Randy Gibson and the Meetinghouse, GCN would probably have never gotten off the ground. Randy underwrote the cost of the first four issues. He said, "Use the materials in the Meetinghouse, use the space, and if you get any money that you can spare, donate some of it to the Meetinghouse!"

**IJ:** Also, given that position, having incredible power, basically being the one allowing the program to happen, he never exerted any editorial control. He never said this should happen. He basically said, do what you want to do. He took a lot of flack from it, too.

**DP:** We had a phone installed after the first few issues. We decided we had to have a telephone. Before that there was no phone; we used the Meetinghouse phone. So there was a pay phone back there, which meant that anyone in the coffee house who wanted to use the phone would be sent back there to use the pay phone, which was our office. It was also in between the kitchen and the Meetinghouse, so food was going back and forth.

**IJ:** And there was just one window.

**DP:** And the window was open all the time, because it was so hot in there, at least during the summer. People would literally walk in the window, or stand there and watch. Sometimes these were people we knew, other times, people we didn't know. One time a wino who was drying out down at Mass. General somehow managed to wander out of Mass. General, still in his robe, stop by the liquor store and pick up reinforcements, and he was standing out there, still with his hospital arm band on. And there we are trying to put out a newspaper.

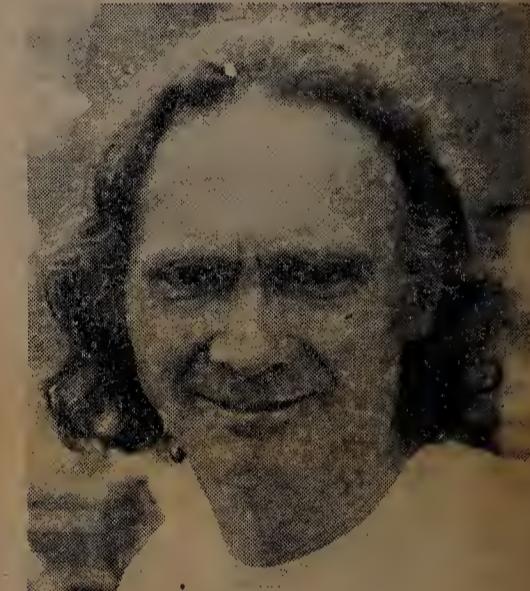
There was one desk. Then there was a work table in the middle of the room. Sometimes it would be so crowded that the only time you would be able to get across the room would be by walking across the desk.

getting along at the paper in those days?

**IJ:** The core group of the real staff people, who spent all the time there and did the work, were basically gay movement novices who had backgrounds in other movements.

**ER: Who were novices besides yourself?**

**IJ:** Oh, Tom Morganti, Danny Greco ... they had a lot of other kinds of background, but not in the gay movement. Why I mention this is because there were lots of men's and women's issues ... now it's much more politically charged. When an issue comes up, everyone deals with it in political terms. In those days, we didn't know the political words to deal with it, so everyone dealt with it in personal terms. Most of my feminist learning came from those people — a lot of people who didn't know what "feminism" was, but we all taught



Randy Gibson

each other, because we all had to work with each other and we were all sensitive to each other's oppression.

**ER: Dave, what was your role at the paper over that first year?**

**DP:** We all did everything. If you look at the masthead, it's like revolving the positions and the names.

**IJ:** The paper went through a whole metamorphosis. Structurally, it kept changing. At first it was purely collective. I was officially called editor only because I had been given that title at the first meeting. It didn't really mean much because all the decisions were made collectively. The only thing that I had the power to do, was that if something came up, I could block it until a collective meeting. That worked for almost six months, where everyone

*Randy turned to me and said, "Well, Ian, you have lots of time. Why don't you be in charge of getting out the first issue?" And I was sort of swept away by the offer to do it and I didn't have any good reason not to, so I said, "Sure." So GCN was born.*

**IJ:** Or walk over the couch. There were also a couple of old, old run down couches that we put everything on top of, all the coats and all the boxes.

**ER: Who was working on the paper in those days?**

**DP:** Marty Wander was one of them also Dee White, Loretta Lotman, Ellen B. Davis, two women named Barbara and J.J.

**IJ:** Lois Johnson and Sheri Barden.

**ER: How were men and women**

decided every question.

**ER: Why did the format change from the initial mimeographed sheets?**

**IJ:** The most critical thing in the beginning was the mimeographing which changed because it was absolutely an incredible process to do. Tom Morganti used to spend one whole day, from early in the morning until late at night, mimeographing GCN. And that's a terrible job, ink all over the place, cutting the stencils and

# SAY GOODBYE: Johnson and Dave Peterson

correcting the stencils. After all that energy it would look like a third grade endeavor. So the first change in layout was to go to offset at the Two-Penny Press.

DP: It wasn't offset on newsprint, it was offset onto regular paper. the printer was over in Brookline.

ER: How did you find the printer?

DP: I think it was through Loretta. Bob Getz at Two Penny Press came over and showed us how to do the layout and everything.

IJ: We were so happy.

DP: We still typed it for a couple of weeks. The typesetting came with Dave Stryker. Dave is another person who's been steadfast through the whole thing. He came in very early, near issue two or three. He is a typesetter by profession and so he arranged to help us out. He was the only one who knew what was going on.

IJ: I'm changing the topic, but there was an interesting intrigue as far as power politics in that at first all the "movement" people were real glad that all these people would come by and just take that burden off their shoulder. But then later, when it started progressing to become something, people became aware that in a sense, this was powerful. The people that had control over what we were reading had power in the gay community. And for a while there was some friction between GCN and some of the groups. People were afraid that GCN would take sides on issues that went between the groups.

When GCN was started, the power dynamics in the gay community changed and it had to basically reshape itself. What happened was that GCN didn't take sides within the groups. GCN tried to support all the groups, and support new groups starting.

ER: I'd like to move on to the move to Bromfield Street, less than a year after the founding of the paper. Why did that come about?

DP: It was too crazy in the Meetinghouse, for one thing. The Meetinghouse was not only the Meetinghouse, but it was where Randy's family lived, and so, after the Coffeehouse closed at night there were still people hanging out. The place was too small. There was no privacy, no security at all.

IJ: At the end of the day we had to take everything and put it in drawers and basically file the whole office away. It was wonderful when GCN could get it together to move.

ER: How did you move here physically?

DP: There wasn't all that much to move.

IJ: There was nothing to move, the desks weren't even ours. We went to Morgan Memorial, all of us, and we spent around \$100 buying all the desks and chairs for the office. The move was symbolic because, besides taking upon ourselves the burden of paying rent, we also decided at that point to start paying staff. We'd gotten to the point that it was ridiculous to assume that people could continue working full time for nothing. Luckily, before that, lots of people had unemployment or other kinds of things to get them through, but at that point everyone's unemployment was running out.

ER: So who'd you start paying?

DP: Barb Piccirilli was office manager, Ian was managing editor, Ellen B. Davis was news editor, and there was also a feature editor. The starting salary was \$60/week full time.

IJ: But we were almost never paid. I figured out once for food stamp purposes the average pay during that period was \$42/week. We had a rule that the first thing that we paid was expenses for rent and printing, and what was left was divided equally for salary.

ER: What was the paper looking like by the time you got to Bromfield Street?

DP: About the same time we went to newsprint . . . didn't we start out with Revere Journal? Haven't we always been there?

ER: Did you have any trouble finding a printer?

IJ: Sales people started coming in. They looked at little presses and came in and tried to sell us on it.

ER: Now think back, that's almost one year after GCN started. What was



Satya's gay picnic in the Common, '74

started out of a little note in GCN that said "I think the community should do such and such."

... some of the editors at the *Globe* were gay and there they were, with their gay brothers and sisters and, not being out of the closet, asking the same kind of questions that the other people were asking, just so they wouldn't blow their cover.



Dave Peterson, 1974

GCN's place in the community?

IJ: The community changed a lot, I really think it helped form a gay community. If you look on the list of organizations, when GCN started there were probably only four or five really functioning organizations. Within six months, that had probably quadrupled, and it kept on expanding. There had been a lot of energy to have a movement, to do things, to start working, but there was no communication. Through GCN, people could write a letter and say, "I really think people should deal with — any number of things — the gay violence." And someone else would write in and say, "We're going to have a meeting on Thursday night at 8:30 at the Meetinghouse," and people who'd want to deal with that would come to the meeting and they'd start karate lessons and patrols.

DP: Any number of groups were

IJ: Satya once put a note in the calendar section for one Sunday when there was going to be a picnic on the common. Remember that picnic? Five hundred people must have shown up and there was no other publicity except that one note.

DP: There was another interesting picnic that GCN was responsible for. When we were about a year old we had a staff outing -- a picnic at Wingaersheek beach near Ipswich. It was on a holiday, maybe July 4th, so the beach was very crowded. There were 20 or 30 of us, and we took over the top of a giant rock near the water. There were a few other people, mostly straights, on the rock, and we noticed that they gradually migrated away from our group. We were pretty well mixed men and women, but it was clear to the careful observer that we weren't paired off in the usual ways. At one point a beach policeman came over and looked around. He was standing right in the middle of us, and said that he'd gotten word that there were a bunch of "queers" on the beach, and asked us if we had seen any. Boy, did we have fun with that! Later we became a bit more outrageous, and had a constant crowd of spectators, like in a zoo. It was a positive example, for those watching, of gay people having fun together; and watching a few small minds being blown was very enjoyable for us.

ER: What about GCN influencing coverage of gay issues in the straight press?

IJ: There was a lot of energy put into that, a lot through Loretta Lotman; that was her pet. She was like a media consultant. She was the liaison between GCN and she'd always be calling up and saying that she had this person who needs a speaker. She was organizing all kinds of things, like field trips out to radio stations.

DP: GCN people went with Gay Media Action people to the *Globe* to have a meeting with the editors there.

ER: What was that like?

DP: It was real interesting, partly because some of the editors at the *Globe* were gay and there they were, with their gay brothers and sisters and, not being out of the closet, asking the same kind of questions that the other people were asking, just so they wouldn't blow their cover. It was a productive meeting. The *Globe* promised and, in some token ways, did increase their coverage of gay events.

IJ: It was a tough time, because at that time, there was no coverage of gay issues. It was the first time those people were accosted with gay people sitting in their offices.

ER: Working on the paper during those early days, what did you personally get out of it?

DP: A lot of hangovers . . . I had a lot of ego in the paper. I still do. I felt like a parent, and a lot of people did. I really did see GCN as a child and we did see it go through the different stages of development, like early childhood toilet training.

IJ: Working at GCN was probably the most important thing I've ever done, in terms of the most fulfilling and the most growthful. I had been involved in a lot of different organizations doing different things. I'd worked in crisis interventions; I'd worked in drug centers; I'd worked with McCarthy. But being gay, and never really being able to deal with it in those contexts, there was always this "hidden thing." There was a part of me, but it wasn't really relevant to what I was doing. When I started working at GCN, there was nothing that I was withholding. It was incredibly rewarding to do that, to put one's whole self into it, to stay there till four o'clock in the morning and to vow that the paper was going to get out, no matter what, and to be euphoric.

DP: The ties with the people were very important. It helped me grow a lot. I used to have this fear of people getting into arguments and then I realized at GCN we would get in such arguments. Everyone would be screaming, five people would resign and run out, and I would be sitting there thinking, "Oh my God — the paper's going to fold!" A half an hour later, everyone would be back in, working away. We went through so

Continued on Page 14

THE  
CROWN & ANCHOR

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## Johnson/Peterson Interview

Continued from Page 13

many crises together, as a group. There have been a lot of problems, but it really brings out a lot of closeness. One of the goodtimes I remember was when Marion Tholander and I were returning to the office after a film benefit at the Garden Cinema. We found a huge, dead potted palm in an old washtub. We loaded it into the back seat of my car and brought it back to the office, creating quite a bit of interest while driving down Boylston Street. Satya dressed it up in some clothes that had been scavenged out of the trash and named it "Shri Palmenanda," and it was the office mascot for a couple of years. Shri's picture appeared regularly in the classifieds when Satya was doing them, and it was even nominated to committees which no one wanted to join. I thought it even made it onto the masthead, but I didn't find it when I was reading back issues last week. About a year or so after Shri joined us, Lyn Rosen discovered that the rags Shri was wearing were better than her own, so she traded jackets with Shri, and wore the exchanged jacket almost constantly for the rest of her stay in Boston. It was a lovely dark maroon velvet.

ER: Looking at specific issues that have come up at GCN over the years, what has been GCN's relationship with the bar community or bars themselves?

DP: That was the first really big controversy. Danny Greco drew a cartoon that was going to run that showed this person going out for a night and it showed bar owners, and one had this pig face — big and fat — with loads of money and it mentioned some specific bars in town, only changed the names a bit.

IJ: It basically said, all bar owners are pigs and they're ripping off the gay community. And there is some basis for that.

ER: What did this do to the paper?

IJ: Well we didn't run the cartoon.

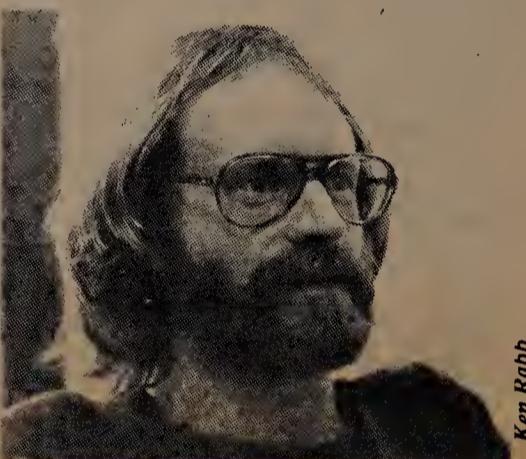
DP: It was ready to go in and I saw it that night and Ian and I talked about it, and some of the other people talked about it and we had this big fight about whether it would go or not, and we finally decided that we would hold it.

IJ: I don't know if I had it, but I made myself have the power to say that it can be run next week, if the collective decides it can be. It's a controversial and important enough issue for everyone to decide, and it should not just be put in by one person. It was held and there was a meeting, a riproaring meeting. The vote was about 60% not wanting to run it and 40% who did. So it wasn't run and about 40% got really upset and left the paper.

ER: What other issues have come up at the paper and caused controversy?

IJ: I think sexism has always been a rift, but it's never been a pronounced split. It's never really come to a focal point of a vote, as much as it's always been a problem of communication.

DP: There haven't been massive walkouts, like there were over the bar issue, but there have been times when people left because of specific issues, but never massive walkouts.



Ian Johnson

Ken Rabb

IJ: Politically, I really like working with a collective. A true collective devotes a lot of energy to the interdynamics and personal growth of the people. That can, in fact, detract from the purpose of what you're trying to do. But if it really works out well, it can give incredible energy

ER: When did you leave the paper, Ian?

IJ: I left in '75. I had the traditional burn-out thing. It's so complicated. I had been in heavy relationships and I felt it really necessary to not be in a relationship and in a sense be sexually and socially freer, and it was really hard to do that in Boston where I was an image. People related to me as this "thing," which had nothing to do with me and my needs, outside of GCN people, and I resented it. I found it really oppressive to be related to as a movement person. When I got to San Francisco, I didn't get involved in anything and it was really refreshing, not to be dealt with as a stereotype.

ER: How did you feel leaving GCN at that time?

IJ: I felt good about it. Because I felt it was real important that GCN not be based on personalities.

ER: David, have you ever burnt out on the paper?

DP: I sort of smoldered, I guess. I go through periods where I'm not hardly active at all.

ER: I think you're the only person who has been consistently on the paper from the start.

IJ: But you've never been a paid full-time person.

DP: I think that may be one of the keys. I've never made the commitment to come in every day, ten or twelve hours for a long period of time. That may be part of it.



Dave Peterson

Ken Rabb

ER: With your experience at GCN over the years, where do you think GCN is in regards to fulfilling the original direction of the paper: to facilitate communication between various segments of the community?

DP: I feel GCN is fulfilling those needs where it reaches. I think its doing a good job in the Boston area, to some extent in New England. I think there's so much potential, so much real need for an expanded GCN, something that has more and more national coverage. I wish there was some way we could convince the rest of the gay community in America that they should let us know when things are happening in their area. It takes very little effort for us to put something in about Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

IJ: I think that GCN has to make a decision on that. It's real different trying to be a nationally based paper or a New England based paper. I perceive now that GCN should really decide firmly what it is and, united, progress to be that.

# GCN PHOTOS...



Donna Price and Marion Tholander, distribution dept., 1975



GCN's first birthday



Jared Goldfine, Russel Fortune, Mary Kennedy with the Lavender Rhino



Jim Saslow on GCN float, Gay Pride 1974



Ron Arruda

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# Fear & Loathing Behind the Scenes at GCN

By Bill Mulkern

This particular newspaper is the 261st of a line unbroken since Issue One was put out in June, 1973. Despite the apathy of the bar-going crowd, despite periodic financial crises, despite cold-shouldering by both the straight and the so-called "alternative" press, *Gay Community News* has thrived, presenting a remarkably coherent and stable image to its readers. But by no means has all the adversity GCN has had to face been external. As the mouthpiece of the New England gay community and as a touchstone for activists, GCN has been subject to all the ills that gay organizations, at least, are heir to. And that means, beside honest differences of opinion: ego-tripping, personality conflicts, office politics, factionalism, malicious gossip, pettiness, resentment, and bitterness. This is a dark side to the paper that a reader seldom gets to glimpse, except for rare occasions like the unfortunate editorial squabbles a couple of years ago between Neil Miller, then editor, and columnist A. Nolder Gay.

Rare, but not entirely absent. Latent hostilities came to a head during the Susan Saxe coverage, which spanned over a year of nearly consecutive issues. Several men considered the Saxe case over-exposed, and feared that the issue was alienating readers and advertisers as well as themselves. As one (male) writer said, "90% of the readers, if polled, would not have approved of the bullshit printed on Saxe. Gay people are just like everyone else. There are gay criminals, too, but their criminality should not be portrayed as a philosophy to emulate." He went on to say that the editor at the time was unable to control the women covering Saxe, and that they had virtually total editorial freedom.

These views are hotly contested by other principals in the case. Male readers, they say, would otherwise have had no access to objective or at least non-hostile reporting on Saxe. It was the male editor's decision to devote so much space to it, not the women on the staff. Advertisers were leaving for other reasons than Saxe, and there certainly was no significant decline in male readership at that time.

It is hard to know, though, for sure. Researching this article turned up few

incontrovertible facts but many opinions, many of them conflicting. People who didn't want their names used, people who would rather not be quoted directly, people who would tell me something about someone they wouldn't dare repeat to that person's face, people who reported hearsay as fact. It has proven difficult for people to compromise their principles on these issues, and as a result, feelings run high.

But what are GCN's principles? From the beginning it was felt that GCN's focus would be political, and that the paper would not merely serve as a bulletin of current events. Although the original staff were journalistic novices, many of them had been involved in anti-war and civil rights work, and were no strangers to radical politics. It was, therefore, a temptation to restrict GCN's scope to the radical segment of the gay community. But publications such as *Fag Rag* already existed to fill the needs of gay radicals. Nothing spoke to the needs of more moderate or even conservative gay people, women as well as men, to the entire community, varied as it is.

In its career as community organ,

GCN has charted a course between the perils of trying at once to be all things to all people, and thus losing coherence, and "right-on," politically correct movement dogmatism not always with complete success. It is hard to remember that some political rhetoric will be meaningless or irritating to some readers, and naturally the political, racial, class, gender and intellectual backgrounds of staff members color and bias newspaper content.

Rather than continually resort to collective vote-taking over controversial issues, a process that could halt publication of the paper, as well as prove tedious and provoking in itself, a statement of principles was worked out by the Board of Directors that, in theory, ought to stop most arguments before they start. But no statement of principles can be totally adequate (witness the Bill of Rights), certainly not for philosophical differences and personality conflicts.

The business of putting out a weekly newspaper on a shoestring budget with too few staff to do too much work with too little financial compensation creates an unrelenting pressure that has all too readily squeezed the humanity out of the paper. More people have left simply because they felt they weren't appreciated than for any other reason. Running the business collectively has only complicated matters. Many people are unable to function in the collective process. Gays are, it has been pointed out, only human. Under the double pressures of the deadline, and at least breaking even financially, when things don't go smoothly, tempers start to rise.

It's hard to imagine, at those times,

that *Gay Community News* is in the avant-garde of a revolution. When reason is warped by high emotion, when quarrels are substituted for dialogue, when articles are disguised vehicles for ego trips, the revolution seems far away.

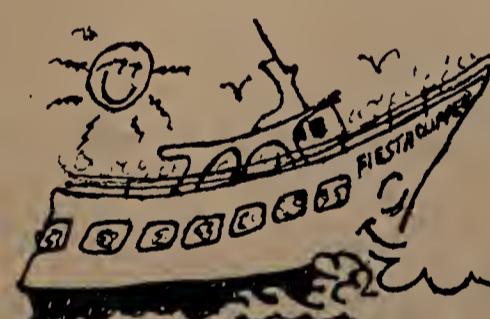
Nevertheless, there is now more consciousness of these problems than there was formerly. There is a resolve that new tactics must be employed, that real dialogue and honest confrontation, no matter how painful, can only be therapeutic. Yet however violent or shaky the process of running GCN has been, we have missed only one issue due to this winter's blizzard. Despite turmoil or transience in the staff, the paper still hangs together. Whatever the rancors that divide us at the moment, we recognize always the importance of not throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

Often these feelings have crystallized about philosophical differences in running the paper, or, especially, certain hot issues being written about that have, for one reason or another, polarized the staff.

One of the earliest such controversies, and one that at the time threatened to nip the fledgling paper in the bud, was over a cartoon. It depicted a bar-owner as a pig with wads of money, a greedy capitalist victimizing bar-goers. Certain bars were mentioned, with the names slightly altered. Just as the paper was about to go to press, the cartoon was pulled and something more innocuous substituted for it. GCN is collectively run, unlike other businesses, so a meeting was called to discuss whether or not the cartoon should be run. Dave Peterson and Ian

Continued on Page 17

## FIESTA CLIPPER



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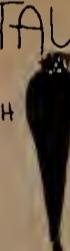
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# Fear & Loathing

Continued from page 16

Johnson, who were present, recall that it was a "riproaring" meeting. Some people felt that it was an accurate description of bars and bar-owners, and that GCN should be helping people to deal with that kind of oppression. On the other hand, many staffers, whatever their own personal feelings about bars, felt that, in spite of all, the bars were an important part of the community, and that it would be counter-productive to alienate them.

On a vote, it was decided not to run the cartoon. Several staff members quit in disgust rather than prolong a confrontation that could have brought the paper to an abrupt and perhaps permanent halt.

The bar issue, however, had not been put to rest. From that time on, GCN's relationship with the bars — and baths — has been a complex and uneasy one. Occasionally, a patron of some particular bar or other is mugged or even murdered, and, more frequently, sexual or racial discrimination is reported. That these incidents are newsworthy no one will argue, but how, or even whether they should be printed is another story.

GCN was formerly more dependent of bar and bath advertisements to generate income than it is today. The policy with regard to "unpleasantness" in bars and other establishments is to report all verifiable accounts of discrimination and licensing irregularities. If a murder or assault of a patron occurs on the premises of a bar, GCN will name that bar, but if such should occur merely within the vicinity of a bar, and have no discernible connection with that bar, not to name names. Murder and the like is felt to be bad publicity, and when it comes to seeing it in the papers, bar owners are touchy.

Touchy, say some. Vindictive, say others. Bars have stopped, or threatened to stop advertising, over

"untoward" reportage. Because of the bars' considerable economic clout, this threat has been perceived as a club held over the paper's head.

The policy of reporting cases of discrimination and assaults on bar patrons has been a source of on-going conflict. The majority of advertising and business staff have thought it to be a realistic compromise, but there have been people who have objected strongly to what they regard as brown-nosing the bars, and who say that GCN has deliberately engaged in minimalist reporting; that articles on discrimination, etc., have not said all they could for fear of antagonizing neurotically sensitive bar owners. Yet, a vocal minority has believed that GCN hasn't done enough to placate the bars; that a more cozy relationship with them is both financially pragmatic and also makes the paper more accessible to a large and important group of readers, the bar crowd. In any case, long-time readers of Gay Community News may have noticed that the number and frequency of Boston bar advertisements has steadily declined over the past couple of years.

There's another reason for the decline in bar advertising. GCN has tortuously worked out advertising content and censorship guidelines that have never set well with the bars and baths. Basically, the human body may not be used to sell products, unless those products are directly connected with the body, e.g. swim suits. Such a principle allows for both considerable leeway in its application, and for considerable ambiguity and confusion. There is the restriction too that what may be perfectly acceptable to one part of the community may be offensive to another. One time the Club Baths was going to hold a beauty contest, proceeds to benefit GCN. Several women on the staff thought that such a concept and such advertisements as were proposed by the Club Baths so



exclusive GCN interviews:  
Aronson, Saxe's companion, p.3  
Mardirosian, Saxe's attorney, p.7  
also:  
lesbian oppression, p.8

Vol. 2, No. 42 April 12, 1975

## Saxe Busted

By Janet Cooper

PHILADELPHIA — Susan Saxe, a woman who had been part of the lesbian community in Philadelphia under the pseudonym of Val Woolf, was apprehended by the Philadelphia police and identified by the FBI as one of their 10 most wanted fugitives for over four years on March 27.

Lexzie Fair, the leaflet of the Lesbian Community Defense Committee, reads in part:

Murray, co-founder of Gays in Health, says, "I would expect the problem is that the FBI found it unusually difficult to 'blend' into the lesbian feminist community, to infiltrate lesbian feminist organizations and communities."

"There are lesbians and lesbian activists, and these are political activists and political revolutionaries," Pam Murray goes on to say. "We

allow the FBI to identify any



Vol. 2, No. 42, April 12, 1975

patently sexist that they had no business in a newspaper supposedly sensitive to feminism. This dispute also was put to a vote, which was split evenly until one editor, a woman, cast the deciding vote against. The Board of Directors, however, overrode the staff and decided to carry the advertising. Nevertheless, several people thought the whole subject ridiculously trivial, among them the Club Baths, which has ever since had little to do with GCN. It is said that out of this conflict the "other" paper, *Esplanade*, was born, taking with it a sizeable bloc of writers and advertisers.

As you can see, feminism and consciousness of sexism have also been powerful factors in deciding the focus of a newspaper where, ostensibly, gay women and men have been able to

work together as equals. This has been the ideal and has actually been the reality for most of the paper's life, until fairly recently. While strictly in terms of numbers men have predominated, women have held many core positions on the paid staff. Unfortunately, such is no longer the case, as men have for the past year held most of the key positions, as well as comprising most of the rest of the staff. Nevertheless, women who have worked for the paper say that most of the men have either already had high feminist consciousness or been readily amenable to consciousness-raising. Although it has usually been difficult for men to relate to feminist issues, and vice-versa, both misogyny and misandry [sic] have been rare; likewise lesbian separatism.

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# Birthday Greetings from GCN Staffers— Old and New

## Linda Lachman

I held the position of publisher when I was at GCN. After I left, this position took the managing editor title, although the job remained the same. I was at the paper for eight months.

I guess there is a lot of sexism in the gay community. There have been very few women in Boston willing to try to work through that sexism, which left those of us who tried to work with gay men in a token position. I wish there were more women working within the gay community to try to combat the sexism. There were several men who I worked with at GCN who were trying to erase their sexism, though there were others who were not trying at all.

It got tiring after a while. I have found it more supportive to work within the women's community and also more reproductive, unfortunately. I would like to think that a lot of what I did in the gay community was productive but the sexism erased many of our accomplishments. A lot of the times I felt like I was knocking my head against a brick wall.

My own belief is that the basic philosophical struggle of the women's and gay community are the same; they have the same foundation. I find it a shame that most gay men are not aware or understanding of the basic issue of sexism.

After leaving GCN, I worked as Elaine Noble's aide at the State House. For the last seven months I have been putting together a new women's recording production company, Galaxia Women Enterprise, with several close friends. Our first record, *Boston Ride*, by Lilith, is now out. Our second record, *Side by Side*, which is enactments of scenes from the women's suffrage movement in America, is due in two weeks. I spent the last seven months researching, writing, and producing this record. I'm also an officer of the Boston NOW Chapter.

One thing that has always struck me about GCN is the quality of the paper. GCN has always stood out as a real newspaper, rather than a porno paper with a couple of news items stuck in. Over the years, GCN has always retained its standards.



Linda Lachman



Diane Bellevance

## Diane Bellevance

I had worked for GCN from February, 1975 to August, 1976. I had held the position of advertising manager for both the *Gay Person's Guide to New England* and GCN.

I don't feel that the paper has changed that much. It is still collectively run and people are overworked and underpaid. When I left the paper I was physically and mentally burnt out. Working for the paper was like being in a constant rap group. Some of the basic issues were: feminism, socialism/capitalism and minorities within the gay community.

The toughest issue for me as advertising manager was what was acceptable advertising copy and what was obscene or inappropriate. In general there was always this struggle to keep a balance between gay male and female news and features.

Presently, I am a master's candidate at Emerson College. I am also teaching at Boston Center for Adult Education and am the owner of my own advertising agency.

To Many More  
Years of Service to  
the Gay Community  
from  
'The Disco Place To Go'  
**TWELVE**  
**SEVENTY**  
1270 Boylston Street      261-1257



John Kyper



George Dimsey

## John Kyper

My introduction to GCN came to my house in Dorchester, in the form of a five page mimeographed sheet called the *Gay Community Newsletter*. A couple of weeks later, hanging around the Coffeehouse, I happened into a back room of the Charles Street Meetinghouse that was serving as an office, and I was drafted into collating and stapling issue #3. The first nine months at Charles Street were touch-and-go. Most of us quit at least once, what with the aggravations of trying to put out a newspaper in such cramped quarters. Wonder of wonders, we continued and we remained a weekly.

After the move to Bromfield Street and a full-time staff was hired, I became, for a time, more fully involved with the day-to-day operation of the paper. A lover became office manager, and the strain of repeated, endless meetings affected our lives. Also, I was once deported from Canada for attempting to bring copies of GCN into the country.

I've been involved with the paper ever since, though the level of my participation has fluctuated over the years, as I completed my BA at UMass, then worked as a prison paralegal, and now as a petty bureaucrat in the Allston-Brighton Little City Hall. Miraculously, the paper has continued for these five years. A love affair in Brooklyn (with another CETA-crat) is leading me to move shortly to California, where I must decide, once and for all, whether I will go to law school. My wishes, then, are for GCN to continue and grow as an independent and critical voice within the gay community, to avoid becoming the house organ of any particular faction or interest.

## George Dimsey

I worked at GCN as office manager and circulation person for approximately three years. Nothing has given me such a feeling of accomplishment or pride before or since. I am now for all intents and purposes unemployed. It isn't easy getting a job in straight society with such a background.

What I received working for the newspaper cannot be expressed in such a short space, but will always be evident in my life. Being there gave me the best opportunity to experience and work for the gay community that a person could be fortunate enough to find. Never before have I come into contact with so many unselfish people in one place. GCN is a unique experiment with women and men from all sides of the political spectrum working together, under very difficult circumstances. Changes occur on the pages as often as changes in the staff and yet somehow it continues to improve. I believe the greatest reason for this is that GCN has no strings attached to it; it truly is a labor of dedication and love. Without its unintimidated voice I doubt if anyone would be listening to our demands for basic human rights in New England. One final personal comment — I love you Friday night volunteers!!!

**Playland**  
21 Essex Street, Boston, Mass.  
&  
All Its Staff  
Wishes GCN  
A  
Very Happy 5th Birthday

# More Greetings . . .

## Neil Miller

Since leaving GCN I've been doing free-lance writing on a variety of subjects for the *Boston Phoenix* and *Sevendays Magazine*. But as much as I am enjoying my current writing, I do miss the sense of closeness and community of working at GCN. I keep up with the paper and am pleased to see that it still remains the best source of national and local gay news and information and that its sense of fairness, politics, and purpose remains at a high level.



Neil Miller



Loretta Lotman

## Loretta Lotman

**FIVE YEARS!!!** Oh, my graying head . . .

The founding of GCN was an act of collective insanity. "Hey, kids we've got the Meeting House and Randy doesn't use his mimeo machine; let's start a newspaper!" I edited copy for the second issue, collated pages and then forceably told the staff, "You *must* go offset!" Issue #4 was printed offset, saving me from collating and giving me the time to write a weekly column, "Media Message" plus many media features under the byline "Staff."

After GCN, I moved to NYC for a well-publicized stint as media *macher* for a debilitating, mealy-mouthed, purportedly national gay "liberation" (cocktail party accent, please) organization. While recovering from that nervous breakdown, I realized that all I wanted to be when I grew up was a writer. Outside of the *Village Voice* and *Michael's Thing*, no one in gay or straight media in New York seemed to agree, so I moved to Hollywood where anyone can be snookered. In my 15 months out here, I have written my buns off, been produced on stage and video, directed and performed, and found my future. I've now finished two plays in a gay-related trilogy (*Pearls That Coalesce*, *A Thanksgiving Lesbian*); written but not sold for Norman Lear, leading to artistic revenge (*Dear Norman: An Open Fantasy to Mr. Lear*); almost finished my first musical (The Political, Emotional, Religious Faddist's Approach to Armageddon and Minority Kazoo Marching Band), and developed TV and film properties for hippies, midgets and the rest of us. I am currently orchestrating the Renaissance and holding out for a Woody Allen deal. I am thinner than in the picture, too. P.S. — I also founded the FIRCLE.

## LINDEN LODGE

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**PROVINCETOWN**  
GUESTS

## Lyn Rosen

I worked at GCN from October, 1974 through April, 1977 as Features Editor and Managing Editor.

The paper's quality was excellent in those days and it still is. I think the news coverage has been outstanding and that we've been breaking more exciting stories than half the dailies in the country. We're keeping up to date on the kinds of civil rights issues that all the media and press should be paying attention to.

Considering the difficulties of working with a budget that has always been small, people at GCN keep up their energy, turn out a quality product, and deal with the emotional problems that come up in the collective. Despite all the problems caused by the lack of money, the paper's quality has been consistently excellent. And *that* is amazing.

Since I left GCN, I've moved to Philadelphia and I'm very happy here. I'm dabbling in writing fiction, and I'm still working with newspaper production. I also collect art deco and Bijou, my cat, is fine. I hope I saw everyone at the ERA march in Washington, D.C.



Lyn Rosen



Marty Wander

## Marty Wander

I worked on the layout of GCN for the first year and I took part in the meetings leading up to the formation of the paper. It was indicative of the confusion of those early days that I actually got involved with GCN by mistake. I thought I was going to a meeting regarding the formulation of the Coffee House at the Charles Street Meetinghouse (I thought I could help as a recent graduate of architecture school). I'd been given the wrong information and actually the meeting was a formative one for the Gay Community Center, which was then organizing the GCN. Being as close to a layout artist as anyone there, I started helping.

It has been a pleasure to watch the paper's layout progress to its present professional quality in the four years since my departure. Since my GCN year, I have spent my time in San Francisco and Boston, augmenting my education and dedicating most of my time to the practice of architecture.



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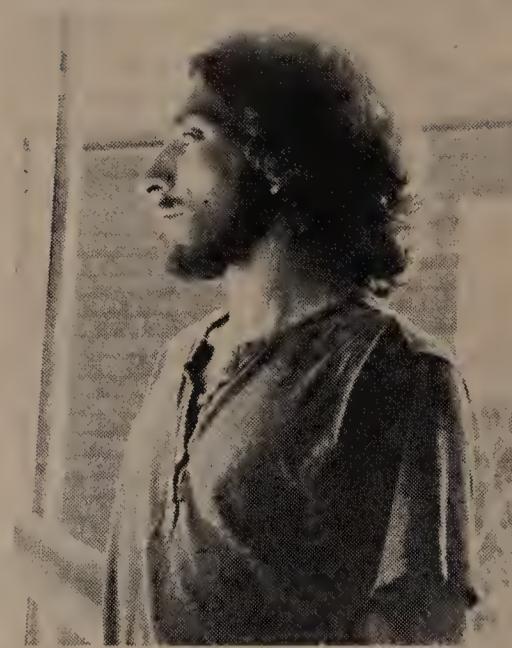
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# More Greetings . . .



Ron Arruda, 1975



Ron Arruda, 1978

Stephanie Munroe

## Ron Arruda

I have carried GCN around on my resume for quite a number of years now. . . . It has never gotten me a job, and has prevented me from getting many (creepy) ones. One thing it does do is to lay it on the line to my prospective employer about my being gay, which saves the pain and hazard of coming out to them later on. For this I heartily thank the association I've had with the paper.

## Don Shewey

I spent about two years writing for GCN, mostly theater reviews. Since then I've been reviewing theater and music for the *Boston Phoenix* and freelancing for *Rolling Stone*, the *Advocate*, etc., etc. GCN was a wonderful opportunity for me; Lyn Rosen, who was editor then, inspired me to do things I didn't know I could. And the compensation for not getting paid included lots of free theater tickets and a way to meet people like Arthur Bell, Doris Wilson and Harvey Fierstein. ("I'm from GCN" can make you an awful lot of friends and contacts.)

Besides not having replaced me with a steady, serious theater reviewer, GCN seems to have gone downhill in the features dept. — there's not much to *read* there lately — and in general seems to be lacking direction just at the moment.

**HAPPY  
5th  
BIRTHDAY**



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**DAVID M. STRYKER**

## Dave Stryker

GCN's worst times are behind it, in my view. I've seen years of struggle, and growth, and backsliding, and viewed rather detachedly the constant stream of staffers and volunteers who stayed a while, became dissatisfied or burnt out, and moved on. And that, fortunately, is where I've taken the other path . . . I've stayed. (Maybe too long, I've thought wearily on a Thursday night from time to time.) I originally came to GCN at about the second or third issue, wanting to help somehow, knowing that my years of experience in the newspaper and printing business should be welcome.

Well, I *wasn't* welcome. I became a self-appointed copy editor, and began happily putting in punctuation, and correcting spelling, and fixing the grammar, and the whole staff descended on me, screaming that I was ruining their "deathless prose"! So I retreated for a week or two into the anonymity of folding papers and cursing as I crawled over the rump-sprung sofa to get at a place to work.

Then, as the paper grew, it became evident that it was getting beyond the typewriter-and-mimeograph phase. So I began to investigate the cheapest way to get it into printers' type, and came up with the idea of doing the typesetting for GCN. (Of course, and the "deathless prose" staffers didn't see it, that gave me full rein to fix up the spelling and grammar and syntax, because once the copy was set in type, it was difficult to make changes. Sneaky, huh?)

So I rented an IBM Composer and set it up in the spare bedroom of the Beacon Hill apartment where my lover and I lived, and began devoting from ten to twenty hours of my life every week to setting all the type for the paper, week after week, through the good times and bad. It's been hell, sometimes; it's been glorious, sometimes.

And the happy thing about it is that I've been able to see GCN take on a professional look, especially the week I dumped the IBM and went into phototypesetting with justified margins. At this point, GCN achieved its big-city-newspaper appearance. Art directors have come and gone (and there have been good ones and some not so good), but by and large I've been responsible for GCN looking as it does today. It's become a large part of my life, and it has been a good, growing experience for me.

So I look with pride at GCN and what it has done. It seems almost my child in many ways, though I know I share that feeling with the rest of the staff, all those hard-working people who struggle with me, week by week, in putting out the best gay newspaper in the world.



Dave Stryker



Nancy Wechsler

## Nancy Wechsler

I've worked for the paper since moving to Boston in 1974. I've written primarily news and taken photographs for the paper and was acting news editor for a short period of time this year.

Some of the more controversial issues that I've covered for the paper have been the Grand Jury harassment of the gay community and the Susan Saxe case. It was a struggle getting these articles into the paper. Neil Miller, editor at the time, thought we should be covering these stories, but there was opposition within the paper to giving them so much coverage.

I think it was important that GCN give the space it did to Susan's case because 1) It was of interest to the lesbian community; 2) We were the only paper to give accurate information about the trial and the issues surrounding the case. This included not just facts, but a political analysis of why the case was happening. We were also one of the only papers that bothered to print information directly from Susan and the Susan Saxe Defense Committee; 3) Printing it raised the issue and forced people to be reminded of American involvement in the Vietnam war and our collective resistance to that war.

Now that the right wing has begun making connections between struggles, our paper has been more open to women's struggles. The paper has become more politically conscious of feminism. It could be a useful resource to the lesbian community. It's hard because working for GCN's a commitment to working with a mixed group. There is potential. The paper has become more feminist and has covered women's issues more but it has a way to go before I feel satisfied with its coverage of feminist issues and the paper itself being truly feminist. If more lesbians would be willing to write for the paper there would be more lesbian news in the paper.

I understand that the paper partly supports itself through ads for male movie houses, male guest houses in Provincetown, and male bars, but I personally get sick of seeing them in the paper. I think it contributes to making the paper look like it's a male paper.

Just because men work on the paper doesn't mean that all lesbians should refuse to participate in or refuse to read it. Lesbians should take advantage of GCN. It's a weekly newspaper and good for passing information.

# PEOPLE, PLACES & FLINGS

By Lee Stone

Bettye Lane, long time GCN photographer, has a photo in last week's *Newsweek*. The photo shows reaction to the Bakke decision by a group of black demonstrators. It's nice to see Bettye's work getting more and more exposure.

Hot Peaches theatre troupe (I used to be a member in the days of loft theatre and the Mercer Arts Center in NYC) will appear at the **Crown & Anchor Inn** at **P'Town** July 17-21. They will perform **Oscar** under the fine direction of **Jimmy Centola**. They are a funny androgynous crew and guarantee the kind of joy that has won them accolades from Amsterdam to Anaheim!

**Joe Kirby** has expanded the **Alter-Eagle** dance floor to the relief of many who have tried to negotiate their way through the mass of shirtless bodies boogeying to the disco sounds of their fine dj's. Movie night on Monday drew quite a nice group. Keep showing those vintage films!

We are proud to share our birthday month of July with the seven year old women's paper **Lesbian Tide**. Since 1971 it has promoted a dedicated feminist viewpoint in news coverage, political analysis, features, et al. You can receive a subscription by writing to the **Tide** at 8706 Cadillac Avenue, L.A. California, 90034. Their current issue covers the **Benefit for the New Alliance for Gay Equality**. Such stars as **Holly Near**, **Joan Baez**, **Harry Chapin** and **Meg Christian** performed to aid the fledgling group. So from all the GCN staff, **Happy Birthday Lesbian Tide!**



Meg Christian

Is it a box office record for **Sylvia Sydney**? Over 725 people packed in to see his Monday show at **Together**. He's not getting any of that two dollar gate either, which is news to many. He's on straight(er, gay) salary.

Club 76's pitcher prices are still in effect every Sunday — suds everywhere! So stop by, sisters!

I've been asked to judge the finals of **Joanna Lee's Gong Show** at **Jaques** in a few weeks. Stop the press! So has my counterpart at **Esplanade**, **Frances Toohey**. Better double pad those gong sticks, **Joanna**. See you there, **Fran**!

**Rosa Von Praunheim's** *It's Not the Homosexual that's Perverse, but the Situation in which He Lives* deals with the sensitive subject of our own self-oppressed and often inhuman behavior among ourselves. *It's Not the Homosexual* was made in Germany in 1971. The showing will be at the **South Station Cinema** July 20th at 7:30 p.m. The donation will go to the **Boston/Boise Committee**. **Herr Von Praunheim** will discuss the film with the audience afterward.

By now **Tony Bosco** has moved the East Cambridge diner, the **Kitchenette**, across the river to sit next to his **House Restaurant**. Tony, who purchased the diner in June, plans to open the converted **Kitchenette** as a bar. You should know that **Tony's** property in Allston has been collecting Boston landmarks for a while — a few months ago he acquired the stained-glass windows from the old St. Mary's Church in the North End. Stop by and take a look at the diner and, if you can possibly arrange it, drop in for Sunday brunch. It's delicious . . .

Stop by **Copley Flair** and take a look at some of the gay-oriented greeting cards they have. Some are truly wild! Some are quite romantic! And some are worth a chuckle or two . . . Stop



in at the **Flair** in Copley Square and wish them a happy summer . . .

GCN's fifth birthday? Now's the time for the paper to leave the home and head off to kindergarten . . . my how we've grown . . .



The Lavender Rhino GCN float in Gay Pride '75

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# CALENDAR

The deadline for Calendar Items is Wednesday at noon for the following issue.

## 15 sat

**Boston** — Clearspace: Women's concerns meeting. 6:30pm. Info: 646-8598.

**Boston** — Gay Mountain Climb up Mt. Osceola, Livermore, NH. Meet at the Boston Commons at Charles and Beacon Sts. 7am. Or 10am at the base at Tripoli Rd. Info: (603) 883-5583.

## 16 sun

**Belmont, Mass.** — Amethyst Women picnic at Rock Meadow, 1-5pm. Call 661-1316 for more info.

**Boston** — Open House at GCN. A party at our offices to celebrate GCN's birthday (we're going on six) and to thank our community for its support and energy. 6pm-midnight, 22 Bromfield St.

**Boston** — The Boston Men's Center is organizing men's groups for consciousness-raising and role examination. 7pm. Campus Free College, 14 Beacon St.

## 16 sun

**NYC** — Gay People In Health Care. July mtg. 7:30pm. The Inferno Discotheque, 5 W. 19th St.

**Smithfield, RI** — Gala Benefit for NGTF/RI. 1-6pm. The Town and Country Club (Rte. 5). Tickets, \$5.

**Boston** — Unitarian Gays mtg. Topic: Integrating sex into a total lifestyle. 7pm. 355 Boylston St.

## 17 mon

**Philadelphia** — Gay Republicans of Philadelphia will meet at 8pm. 326 Kater St.

## 18 tues

**NYC** — "How to Succeed in Business Without Being Straight." 8:30pm. West Side Discussion Group. Triangle Gay Community Center, 3rd floor, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.

**Cambridge** — Gay Folk Dancing 6:30-9pm, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Univ.

## 19 wed

**Boston** — Out Here for Gay Youth, rap session: Health Issues: V.D., clinics, etc. 7-9pm. 355 Boylston St.

**Boston** — Clearspace: A Whist Party. 7:30pm. Open to all gay men. 103 Charles St. No. 2.

## 20 thurs

**Boston** — Boston premiere of Rosa Von Praunheim's film, *It is not the Homosexual Who is Perverse, But the Situation in which He Lives*. A benefit for the Boston/Boise Committee. 9pm, South Station Cinema. \$3 donation. Von Praunheim will be present to discuss the film.

**NYC** — Salsa/Soul Third World Women. Topic: *Interracial Relationships*. Washington Sq. Methodist Church, 133 W. 4th St. Info: (212) 799-8243.

**Boston** — Camille Norton will read poetry at the Cafe Gallery, 73 Dartmouth St., South End. 8pm.

## 21 fri

**Boston** — Am Tikva. Discussion on aging. All welcome. Frost Lounge, Ell Building, Northeastern University, Huntington Ave.

**Cambridge** — Open House at DOB 8pm. Refreshments. 1151 Mass. Ave.

## 22 sat

**Philadelphia** — Swim and Dance Party sponsored by the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia. 8pm-midnight. Alden Park Manor (Germantown). Tickets, \$5.

**Philadelphia** — The Liberty Bell Rainbow Society (a social group for gay deaf persons) will meet at 6pm at 326 Kater St.

## 23 sun

**Boston** — Gay Folk Dancing. 4-6pm. Lindemann Center gym, Staniford St.

**Boston** — Am Tikva Beach Trip. Bring picnic food to share, swim suits, all welcome. Meet in front of Ell Building, Northeastern Univ., Huntington Ave.

**Cambridge** — Karen Lindsay will read "A Company of Queens." 8pm. Amaranth, 134 Hampshire St. \$2.

## 24 mon

**NYC** — All the Queen's Women. Open Softball game. 6:30pm. Kissena Park (Kissena Blvd. & South Memorial).

## 25 tues

**NYC** — West Side Discussion Group: *How Lesbians and Gay Men Can Tear Down the Barriers Between Them*. 8:30pm. Triangle Gay Community Center, 3rd Floor, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.

**Cambridge** — Daughters of Bilitis: Older Women's Rap. 8pm, 1151 Mass. Ave.

**Philadelphia** — Benefit for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia at the Post, 17th and Chancellor Sts. 9:30pm.

**Baltimore** — Toronto Gaydays trip planning mtg. (trip set for Aug. 24-27). Travel, accommodations, etc. will be discussed. 8pm. Gay Community Center, 2133 Maryland Ave. Info: (301) 837-3755.

## 26 wed

**Boston** — Out Here for Gay Youth, rap session: Youth Liberation/Gay Liberation. 7-9pm. 355 Boylston St.

## 27 thurs

**Cambridge** — Mental Patients Liberation Front, an organization of present and former psychiatric inmates, is having a public forum on their opposition to psychiatric "treatment." 7pm. Cambridge Public Library, 45 Pearl St., Central Sq.

**Boston** — Hot city summer poetry reading. Open to any lesbian or faggot poet. Cafe Gallery, Dartmouth & Appleton Sts. 8pm.

**Boston** — MCC Gay Deaf Club. 8pm. 131 Cambridge St.

**NYC** — Salsa Soul Third World Women. Topic: *Gay Pornography*. Social night. Washington Square Methodist Church, 133 W. 4th St. Info: 799-8243.

## 28 fri

**NYC** — Balle Con Cohia! Salsa/disco en Columbia University, Earl Hall Center, 116th and Broadway. 9pm-2am. Entrada \$2.50.

## 29 sat

**Wakefield, RI** — The Best Annual Women's Footrace, sponsored by Women's Energy. Starts at noon at Old Mountain Field. 5 mile course. \$1.50 entry fee. Info: Chris (401) 846-2029 or Adrienne (617) 783-0782.

**Boston** — Clearspace. Lobster and Beach Day for women in Kittery, Me. Call 646-8598.

**Boston** — Boston Gay Health Project announces free VD testing by the Gay Health Collective in Bridge Over Troubled Waters' Medical Van. Anonymous (by ID#). 5pm to midnight: 5-6:30pm, Copley Sq. (near Chaps); 7-8:30pm, Combat Zone (near Playland); 9-10:30pm, Sporters (Cambridge St.); 11-midnight, The Fenway (near Eagle). Have you had your summer checkup?

## 30 sun

**Boston** — Clearspace. Boat trip to Nantasket Beach. Open. Call 227-4327 for info.

## 31 mon

**Allston** — Barney Frank Night at the House Restaurant. 100% of proceeds to go to the Committee to Re-Elect Barney Frank. Dinner 8pm; cocktails 8pm. Call 783-5131 for info.

**Baltimore** — Maryland Gay Rights Coalition mtg. 8pm. 2133 Maryland Ave. (S.E. cor. of 22nd St. & Maryland Ave.)

**Boston** — Social evening for Gay Youth 7-9pm. Parish Hall, Arlington St. Church

**NYC** — All The Queens Women Young Adults Rap, for high school juniors and seniors. \$1. 7:30pm, 23 164th St., Flushing. Info: (212) 359-9204.

## 1 tues

**NYC** — West Side Discussion Group "Gay Marriage — Can It ever be made legal?" 8:30pm, Triangle Gay Community Center, 3rd floor, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.

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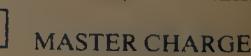
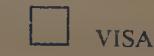


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